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# China

CHINA TOURISM



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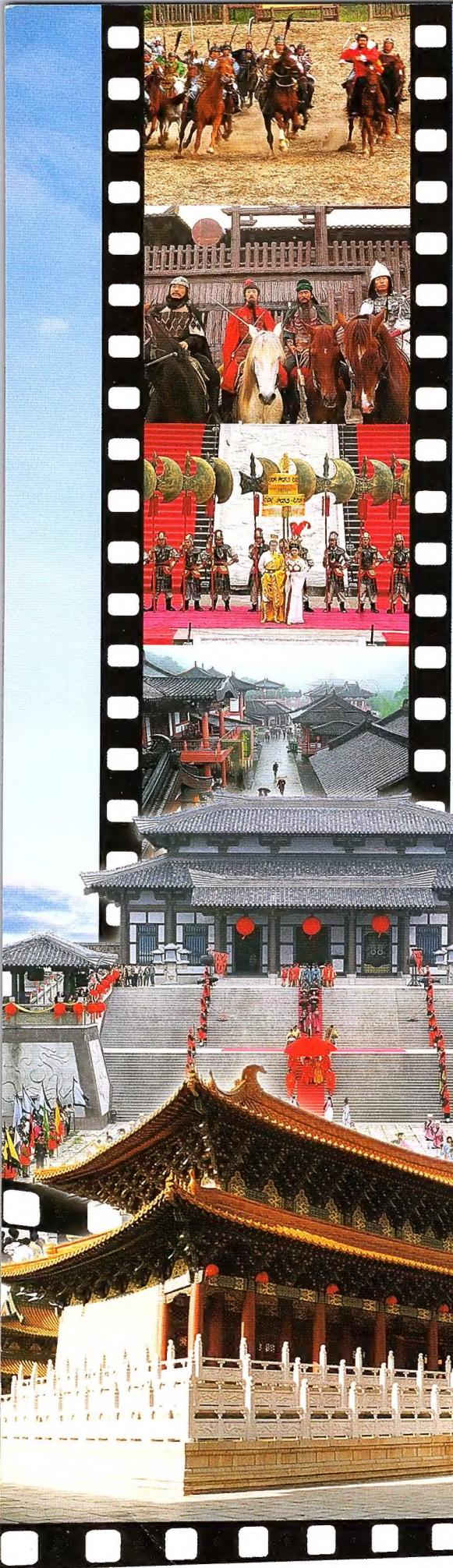
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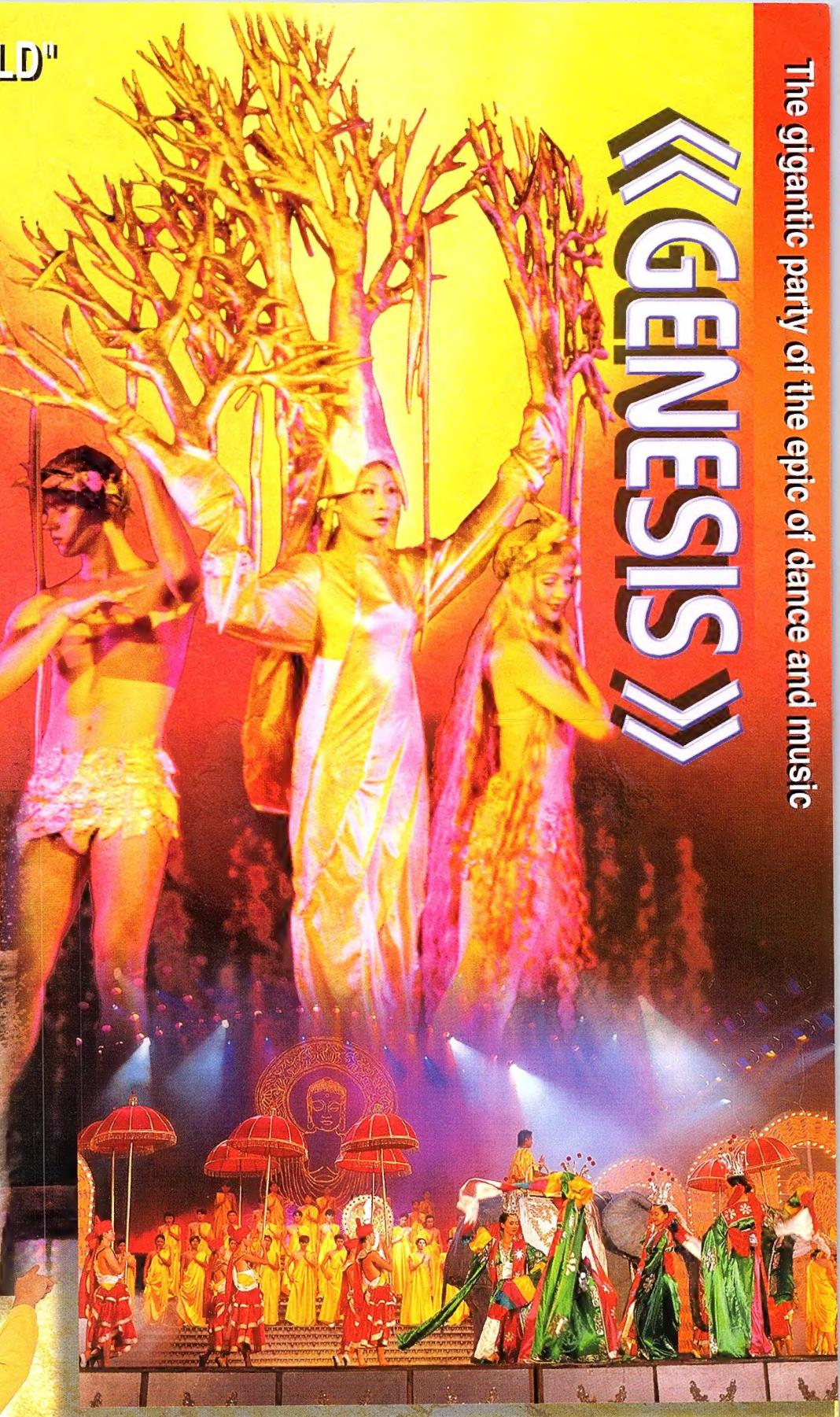
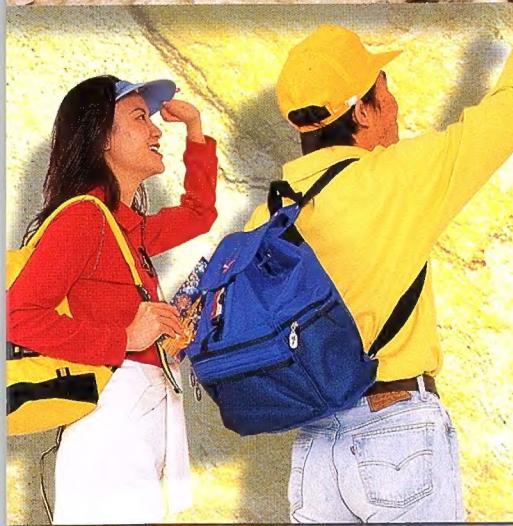
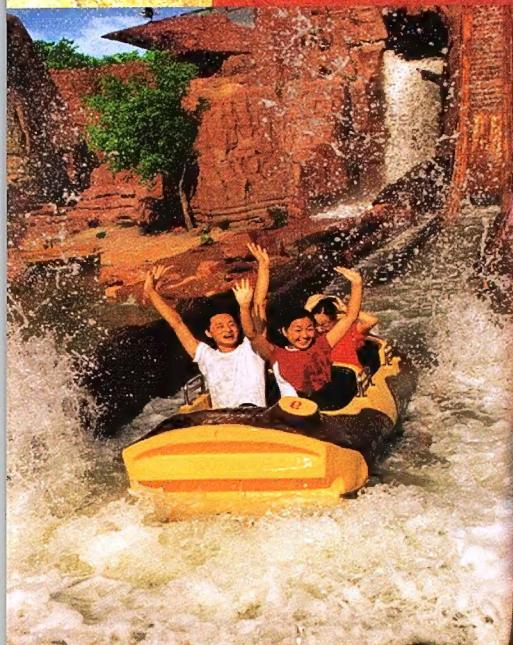
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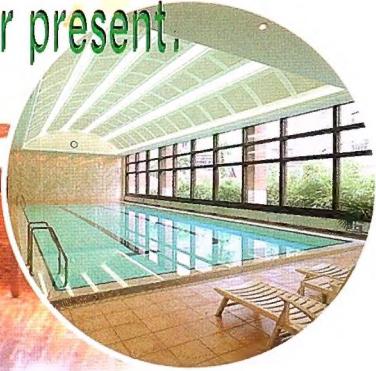
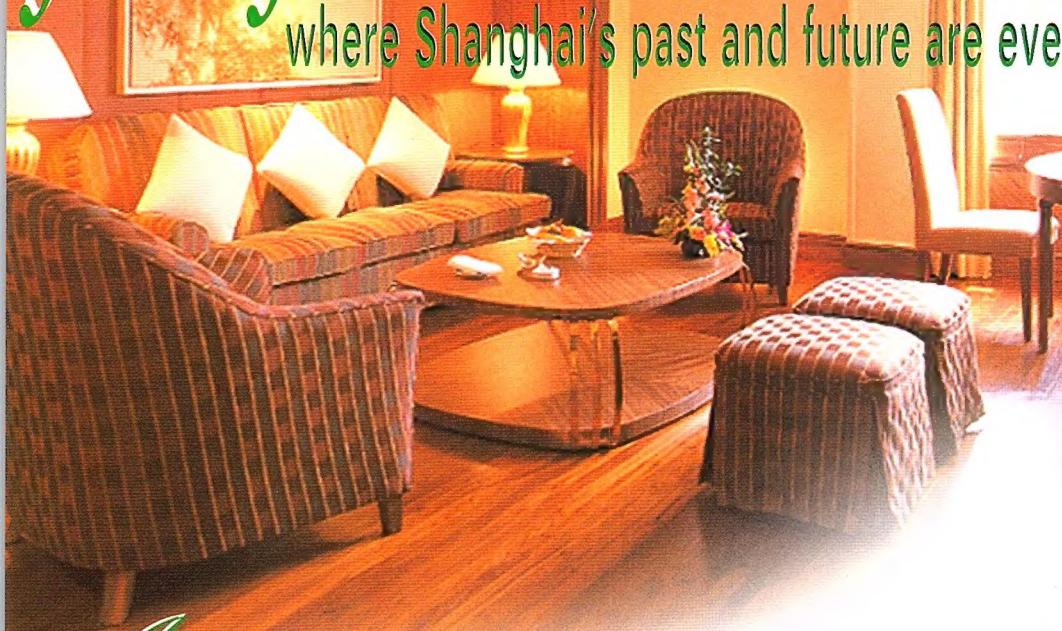
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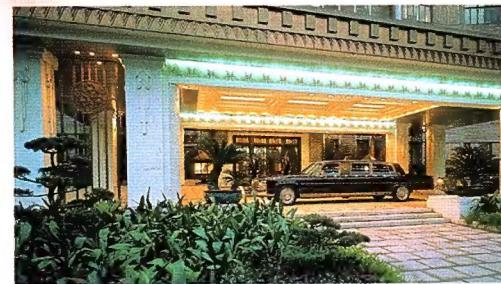
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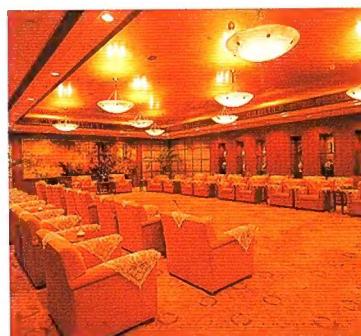
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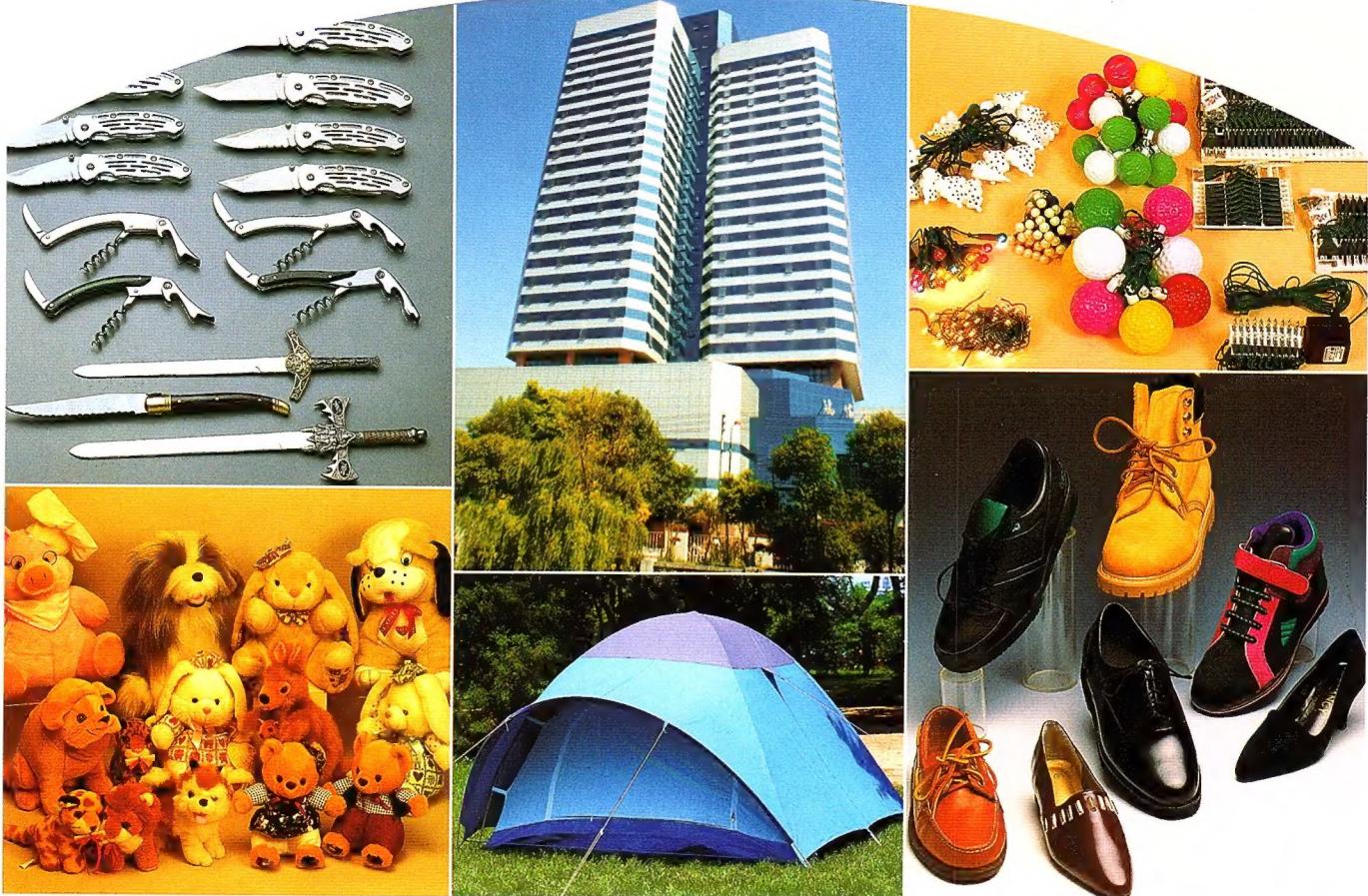


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## A Brief Introduction

Founded in January 1974, Jiangsu Light Industrial Products Import and Export (Group) Corporation mainly involves in the import and export of various products and techniques with emphasis on light industrial products. It also entertains other trading activities such as joint-ventures, joint-manufacturing, compensation trade, processing, counter trade and entrepot trade.

The corporation's total assets have reached 1 billion yuan. In 1998 its total import and export value was US\$242 million, with US\$190 million in export. For several consecutive years, it has ranked among the top 100 of enterprises with the largest import and export quantity in China. In recent years, it has been awarded as an "Excellent Foreign Trade Company" by the State Committee of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, and also selected as one of China's "500 Strongest State-owned Enterprises" by the State Management Bureau of the State-owned Assets.

The corporation presently has a staff of 368 and three branch companies involved in Footwear, Toys and Stationery, Sporting and Sundry goods. It has nine import and export departments dealing

with electric appliances and leather goods, and six comprehensive management departments. Taking as its goal to become an "industrialised, incorporationised, internationalised and multi-functioning" enterprise, it has invested 200 million yuan to build development bases at home and abroad, such as Baohua Industrial Zone, Yangzhou Jiangsheng Footwear Co. and Changzhou Zhongxing Tourist Products Co. It has set up nine subordinate enterprises in Hainan, Shanghai, Suzhou, Wuxi, Changzhou, Nantong, Yangzhou, Zhenjiang and Lianyungang. The company has 25 enterprises with all or majority shares and 60 share-holding enterprises. It has also founded 12 subsidiaries and representative offices in Hong Kong, Japan, the United States, Chile, Argentina, Russia, Romania, Ukraine and Nigeria.

The corporation takes great efforts to create a democratic and open atmosphere. Regarding "reality and novelty" as its enterprise spirit, it upholds the principle of "equality, mutual benefit, friendly co-operation, quality first and credit above all". It is now running under the ISO9002 quality system, aiming at customer-oriented superior service for the benefit of all concerned parties.



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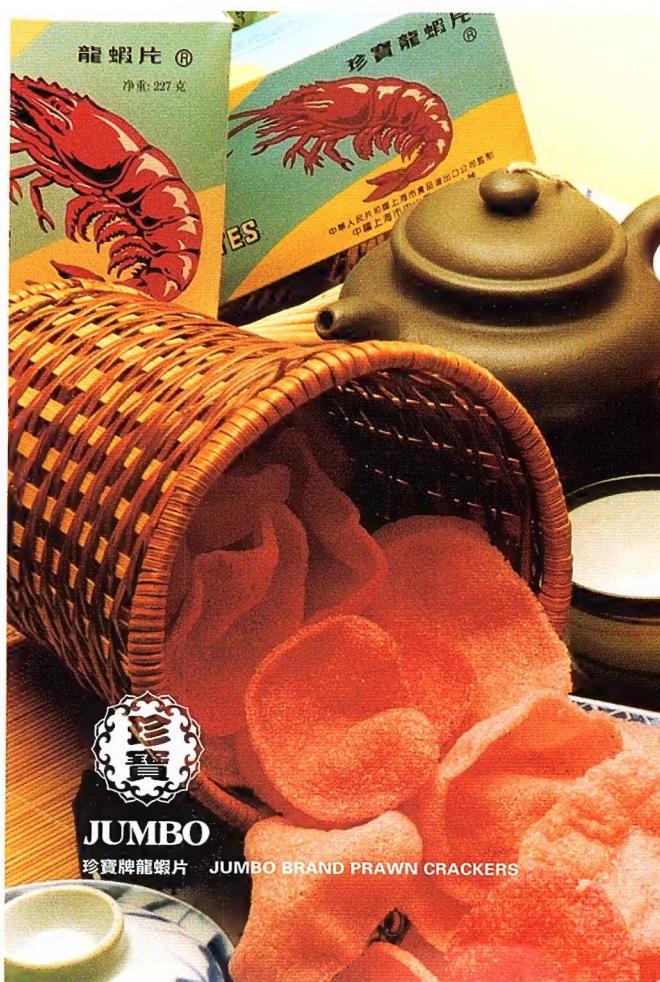
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Photos by Hu Chui Article by Wu Jun

Roaming Through Beijing's Hutongs

Photos & article by Guan Fei

Hunting for Antiques

Photos by Wu Jun, Zhu Jianhui Article by Zhu Jianhui

## Eating and Entertaining in Beijing

Photos & article by Xie Guanghui

Mentioning Beijing, many would say that they have been there and seen the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and the various temples and parks with ancient architectures. In fact, Beijing is changing so fast that even when you return after a recent trip, you always find something new in this modern metropolis. The newly renovated Chang'an Boulevard, the extension of its subway network, the bars at Sanlitun in east Beijing, together with the hutongs and the numerous historical sites, add an increasing attraction to Beijing. Besides, the capital city is also an ideal place for antique-hunting and entertainment.

## 56 Local Guide

Zhangye: An Oasis on the Silk Road

Photos by Li Wu Article by Zhang Hua

As a stop on the converged Silk Road routes, Zhangye has a host of historical sites and cultural relics worth investigating.



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Unique Legacy of Rituals in the Qing Imperial Court  
*Photos by Wang Ruishen Article by Yao Gang*

Before entering Beijing, the Manchus built their Great Qing empire in the Northeast, with Shenyang as the capital. Now in the old imperial palace in Shenyang, a festival is held annually in August or September, during which unique rituals and ceremonies are demonstrated, such as the emperor meeting his ministers, the princess' wedding and the emperor's city tour.

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A group of motorcyclists from Deyang in Sichuan travelled into the wilderness of western China. After going through all kinds of hardships, bumping long hours on rough roads, changing a tyre in a snow storm, falling into a mud pool... the travellers concluded that their experience was very rewarding.

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# China

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## FROM THE EDITOR

# VISITING BEIJING IN THE GOLDEN OCTOBER

The capital of one of the world's oldest nations, Beijing has long been renowned for its colourful cultural and historical heritage, which always charms its visitors with a hint of nostalgia. Yet since China took off towards modernisation in the 1980s, construction has mushroomed all over Beijing, turning the ancient city into an alluring combination of history and progressiveness, and adding new colours to this favourite travel destination.

Autumn is the best season for visiting Beijing. Your itinerary on a city tour will definitely include the Forbidden City, or the Palace Museum, which had been an important witness of the ups and downs of the Ming and Qing dynasties. A visit to the uniquely-Beijing quadrangles through the zigzagging hutongs will unveil the most typical lifestyle of the Beijingers. Or you may go treasure hunting in the curio markets to test both your judgement and luck. In fact, whether you are strolling in Tian'anmen Square or patronising one of the famous restaurants or teahouses in the city, you can feel the pulse of today's Beijing.

Shenyang is another important spot to trace the former prosperity of the Qing Dynasty. Before they settled in the Forbidden City in Beijing, the rulers had resided in the palace in Shenyang. Though incomparable to the Forbidden City, this former palace in Shenyang has its own particular historic legacy. The imperial rituals now presented in the palace as a tourist programme are reminiscent of the heyday of the Manchu reign.

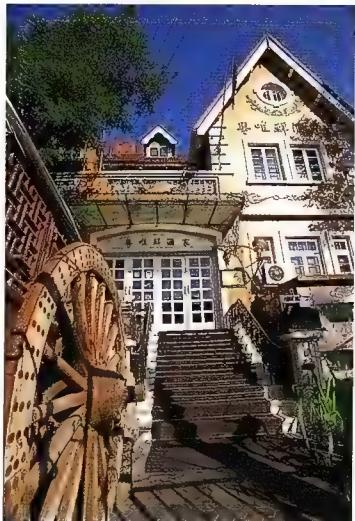
Apart from the palace, the three mausoleums, where the first two emperors of the Qing Dynasty and the ancestors of royal family were buried, are equally worth visiting. Together with the Shenyang palace, the royal mausoleums form the perfect route for those who want to relive the former glory of the royalty this autumn.

*Photo by Chan Yat Nin*



## Italian Folklore Zone Planned, Tianjin

A tourist zone focusing on Italian folklore will be developed in Hebei District in downtown Tianjin.



In an area of 100,000 square metres which combines tourism with commerce, all structures will feature an Italian style.

Tianjin, one of China's four municipalities under the direct administration of the central government, is a major port city by the Bohai Sea. The city government of Tianjin has paid much attention to developing tourism with local characteristics. Since there are many well preserved Western architectural buildings in the city, it has been decided to build the Italian Folklore Resort on the basis of its existing Italian architectural complex. While some old buildings of this kind are being renovated, more new scenic spots will be constructed, including gardens, squares and sculptures. The project will be developed in collaboration with Italy.

## Touring Mount Lushan from the Air

People who have been longing for admiring the beauty of Mount Lushan from above can have their dream realised now — the Lushan Helirome has just been constructed and put into operation. Besides the famous scenic spots on the mountain, such as Immortals Cave, Jinxiu Valley, Three-Tier Fall, Wulao Peak and Hanpokou, the helicopter tour also offers a bird's-eye view of Jiujiang City and the Jiujiang Yangtse River Bridge.

The 20-minute tour charges 100 yuan per person. Five Russian 172 helicopters are in service for this programme, each of them having a capacity for 35 passengers. Other helicopter programmes, such as a tour from Mount Lushan to Jinggang Mountain or Huangshan Mountain are also available.

## Tourists to Hong Kong Up 10 Percent

Statistics from the Hong Kong Tourism Association (HKTA) show that tourists to Hong Kong have been increasing steadily this year. The number of travellers to Hong Kong in the first five months of 1999 reached 4.2 million, 12 percent more than that of the same period of last year. The main reasons of this increase, according to HKTA, are the reduction of hotel room prices and the lower-price commodities in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

## New Cultural Relic Archive in the Summer Palace

The new Summer Palace Cultural Relic Archive was put into operation on October 1. With a total of 40,000 pieces of cultural relics, this is the largest archive of its kind in China. Now all the cultural relics in the Summer Palace, dating from the 17th century B.C. to the early 20th century, are displayed in different halls on the ground floor.

Located on the eastern shore of the Kunming Lake, the archive consists of two stories, one on ground level and the other underground, with a total floor space of over 7,000 square metres. Though built with modern materials, the complex represents the typical Ming and Qing architectural style, making it a unified part of the imperial garden. The new archive maintains the required temperature and humidity exceptionally well.



## Christmas Shopping Extravaganza Evening at The Peninsula

The Christmas shopping extravaganza evening will be held at The Peninsula, Hong Kong, on December 2, 1999 in aid of the Hong Kong Cancer Fund. The shops will stay open on the evening of that day, and customers will be invited to the arcade for festive shopping amid the traditional European seasonal atmosphere of strolling musicians, champagne, oysters and chestnuts.

The Peninsula Hong Kong is managed by The Peninsula Group, one of the premier hotel groups in the world. A prestigious hotel standing by the Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, The Peninsula added quite a few new top names to its arcade in 1999. These include D'urban, Tang's Seal Engraving Shop, Manolo Blahnik, Baccarat, Nancy & Prima, Furla, Oriental Art Jewelry, Shanghai Tang, Chamtex and Maud Drizon. Meanwhile, many other existing shops have been expanded or renovated.



## Wellcome Hong Kong: Sparkling Millennium

Wellcome, the largest and oldest supermarket chain in Hong Kong, will mark the coming of the new century with the campaign of Sparkling Millennium. The company recommends a series of champagne and sparkling wine for celebrating the beginning of the new millennium, and offers free delivery for orders accepted up to November 30. On its list are such famous brands as Charles Lafitte Grande Cuvee, Gosset Brut Excellence, Moet & Chandon, and Veuve Clicquot Brut Yellow Label.

Wellcome became part of the Dairy Farm in 1964. It has now over 220 stores in Hong Kong. Dairy Farm is an international retail and wholesale group focused on Asia-Pacific markets, specialising in the distribution and sale of high-quality, fast-moving consumer goods.

## Warring States Relics Found on the Yangtse Banks

Important discoveries have been made during the excavations to save the cultural relics possibly buried in the Yangtse River areas which will be submerged when the Three Gorges Dam is completed. One of them is the tomb site at Maituo, one kilometre from the county seat of Wushan on the north bank of the Yangtse River.

More than 500 burial articles were uncovered in 22 tombs dating back to the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) and the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220). Except for one earthenware object, the burial articles from three Chu tombs are all bronzes, including pots, woks, hooks and spoons. Their designs reflect the culture of the late Chu State. Relics found in one Han tomb range from gold, silver, copper to exquisitely emblazoned pottery, including two dozen human figurines of singing men and dancing women.

## Towns to Absorb Rural Population

China is trying to help at least 100 million rural residents move into small urban areas during the first decade of the new century when the country concentrates on the development of about 10,000 small towns to promote rural economic growth.

China's urbanisation rate stands at 30 percent while the world's average is about 47 percent. The country had 17,015 registered towns in 1998, an increase of 2,361 from 1978. Small towns are collection and distribution centres for commodities. They attract township enterprises to operate there, stimulate service industry, and help increase farmers' incomes. The country invested 277.2 billion yuan (US\$33.4 billion) in construction of towns and villages in 1998, an increase of 4.5 percent compared with that of the previous year.

## Guilin Landscape Tourism Festival

The festival will be held from November 16-18 this year in Guilin in South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Besides visiting the fascinating limestone caves and enjoying the poetic landscapes along the charming Lijiang River, tourists will also be invited to a series of lively activities, such as a bonfire party on the Love Island, Lijiang River Lantern Festival, ancient cultural tour and a two-day tour to the lovely Longsheng Hot Springs.



## Xinjiang: More Highways, More Visitors

Transportation used to be the main barrier for travelling in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, an attractive land with characteristic topographies of high mountains and vast deserts. Now the construction of 32,000 kilometres of highways has created a network of transportation with the region's capital Urümqi at the centre.

The Urümqi-Turpan Highway links Tianshan Lake in the Tianshan Mountains with Turpan, the famous grape producer with a colourful culture. The Tarim Highway built through the Taklimakan Desert has changed the meaning of "taklimakan" — sea of death — and offers special views of the desert, such as the thousand-year-old diversiform-leaf poplar forests. State highways going through the region have been renovated so that tourist buses can easily reach scenic spots such as the Kanas Lake in the Altay Mountains. Highways leading to some border cities have also been improved to make shopping at the flourishing border markets more convenient.

*Festival***Commemorating Confucius's 2,550th Birthday***Beijing & Qufu*

September 28, 1999 was the 2,550th birthday of Confucius, one of China's great thinkers and the founder of Confucianism. To commemorate this special occasion, the Confucius Temple in Beijing scheduled a series of activities and rituals during the Confucius Cultural Festival.

The grand memorial ceremonies, which fell on September 10 (Teachers' Festival) and September 28, were in the spotlight. Involving more than 120 participants, the six sections of the ritual modelled on the Qing-dynasty memorial ceremonies reflected the grandeur of ancient imperial performances. At the exhibition "Confucius and Confucianism" held from September 6 in the Confucius Temple, or the Capital Museum, a large number of photos and cultural relics are displayed to introduce Confucius's life and the development of Confucianism.

Meanwhile in Qufu in Shandong, the hometown of Confucius, the Commemorative Activity for Confucius's 2,550th Birthday and the China Qufu International Confucius Cultural Festival were held from September 26 to October 10. The opening ceremony was held at Dacheng Hall of the Confucius Temple. A sacrificial ceremony for Confucius and a display of an ancestral imperial temple performance, modelled after an ancient dance with musical accompaniment, were also held.

*Travel Route***Touring Beijing on the Water***Beijing*

According to history, in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Empress Dowager Cixi travelled on water to the Summer Palace to escape the heat in summer. To enable tourists to share the same enjoyment of cruising through the city of Beijing, starting from July 28, eight environmentally-friendly boats have been put into operation to sail on the newly renovated Beijing waterways. Two of these water routes leading to the Summer Palace were choked with silt in the past.

Beijing's waterway restoration project was initiated in April 1998. Up to now, silt removal work has been taking place in the city's six lakes and rivers, including Tongzi River outside the Forbidden City and Kunming Lake in the Summer Palace. On top of that, all rivers and lakes inside Beijing were joined. Kunming Lake in the west suburbs, Yuyuantan Lake in the city and Gaobeidian Lake in east suburbs have been linked up to form a water network of 43 kilometres. One of the two routes leading to the Summer Palace, the nine-kilometre Long River Route, runs past Wanshou Temple and Purple Bamboo Park. The 10-kilometre-long Kunming Lake-Yuyuantan Lake Route, on the other hand, flows past Linglong Park, Mingshi Garden and the water amusement park.

While continuing to restore its waterways, the capital will also enlarge the green area along the river banks to 15 million square metres.

*Transport***Beijing Airport Expansion Project Completed***Beijing*

Expansion projects at the Beijing Capital International Airport have been completed, thus bringing comfort and convenience to passengers to and from the Chinese capital.

The new terminal building, east of the old one, opened on National Day, October 1, 1999. The new H-shaped terminal cost 9.18 billion yuan (US\$1.11 billion). By 2005, the new airport will be able to handle 35 million passengers and 190,000 flights annually.

Pressure on the capital's airport has been mounting: the old terminal's facilities could not handle the increasing passenger and cargo volumes.

It is believed that airport expansion will fortify Beijing's role as an international transportation centre. "The new terminal showcases the world's state-of-the-art systems, since all of its equipment has been procured through domestic and overseas bidding," said Wu Bing of the project headquarters office.

A 167,000-square-metre parking lot in front of the new building can accommodate 5,167 cars, making it the largest of its kind in Asia.

The airport has opened 174 routes run by 62 domestic and foreign airlines. In 1998, the airport handled 159,228 take-offs and landings and 17.31 million passengers.





## News

### Wuxi Plans a Canal Scenic Area

**Wuxi** Sitting by the side of Taihu Lake with an ancient canal flowing nearby, the city of Wuxi has the air of typical southern China water villages. In order to further highlight this distinctive feature, Wuxi is planning to build a canal scenic area in two years time.

The scenic area will cover an area of 45,000 square metres on both banks of the canal. The canal will become the core of the spot surrounded by human constructions. Arched bridges and a

nine-bend bridge will be built, and lakes and streams will be opened up to join the ancient canal to form the sightseeing route on water. A residential area typical of a southern China water village will be constructed, with streets at the front and rivers and piers at the back of the houses. Traditional shops selling antiques and handicrafts, and eating places and teahouses will be added as well. A museum will also be included in the scenic area featuring the historical figures and events, as well as folk culture of the area.

## Beijing Hotel Recommendations Shanghai

**New World Courtyard Beijing** Conveniently located in the Chongwen District of Beijing, New World Courtyard Beijing is within walking distance of the subway and Beijing Railway Station, and is only a 45-minute drive from the International Airport. The hotel also gains marks by being situated in close proximity to the city's most popular tourist attractions including the Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven and Hongqiao Market. Business travellers will be delighted to find that New World Courtyard Beijing is in the neighbourhood of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation and the municipal administration of Beijing. Now, readers of *China Tourism* are entitled to a 10 percent discount on room rates in the deluxe New World Courtyard Beijing.

Tel: (10) 6718 1188, 6708 8031 Fax: (10) 6708 1808, 6708 8013

Add: 3C Chongwenmen Wai Street, Beijing

**Beijing Telecom Hotel** On your next business trip to Beijing, you may wish to consider staying in Beijing Telecom Hotel situated in the capital's Haidian District. A four-star luxury business hotel, Beijing Telecom Hotel proudly possesses 325 guestrooms and deluxe suites finely furnished with modern facilities and advanced telecom equipment such as Internet, and VOD and high-speed data line. The conference halls are installed with long-distance video and telephone conference service to meet the demand of the fast-paced business travellers. Its first-class banquet facilities, together with worldwide cuisine, can satisfy the most particular of guests.

Tel: (10) 6390 1166 Fax: (10) 6390 1273 Toll-free for reservation: 800 810 0614

**Central Hotel Shanghai** With a combination of modern art and elegant classic style, Central Hotel Shanghai, the international standard four-star hotel, was opened on September 28, 1999. Favourably located in downtown Shanghai, adjacent to the Central Park on Nanjing Road East and with an excellent business atmosphere all round, the Central Hotel Shanghai brings guests great convenience for business, travelling, catering and entertainment. With 283 luxuriously appointed guestrooms, five different styled restaurants, bars and clubs, elegantly equipped banquet and meeting facilities, and a fully outfitted recreational centre, the new Central Hotel Shanghai is emerging as the ideal place for business and holiday travellers.

Tel: (21) 5396 5000

Fax: (21) 5396 5188

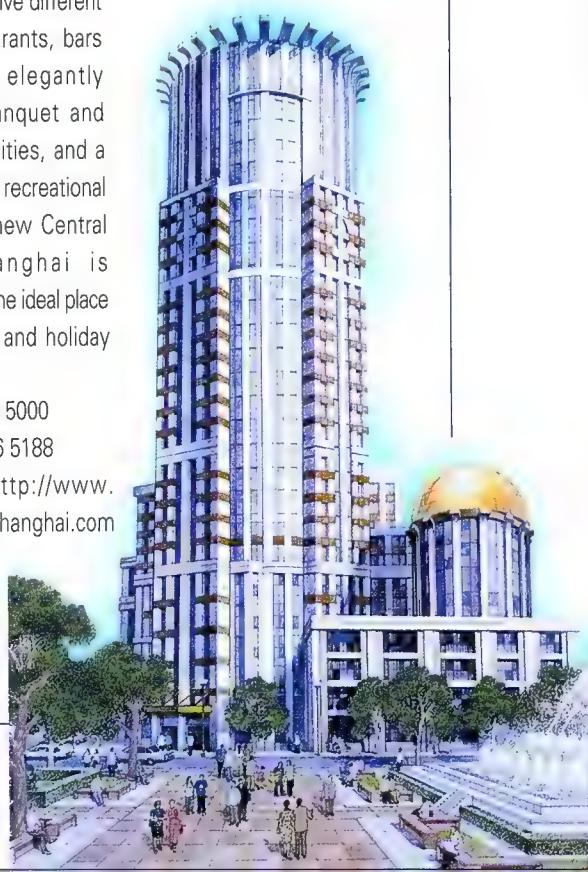
Website: <http://www.centralhotelshanghai.com>

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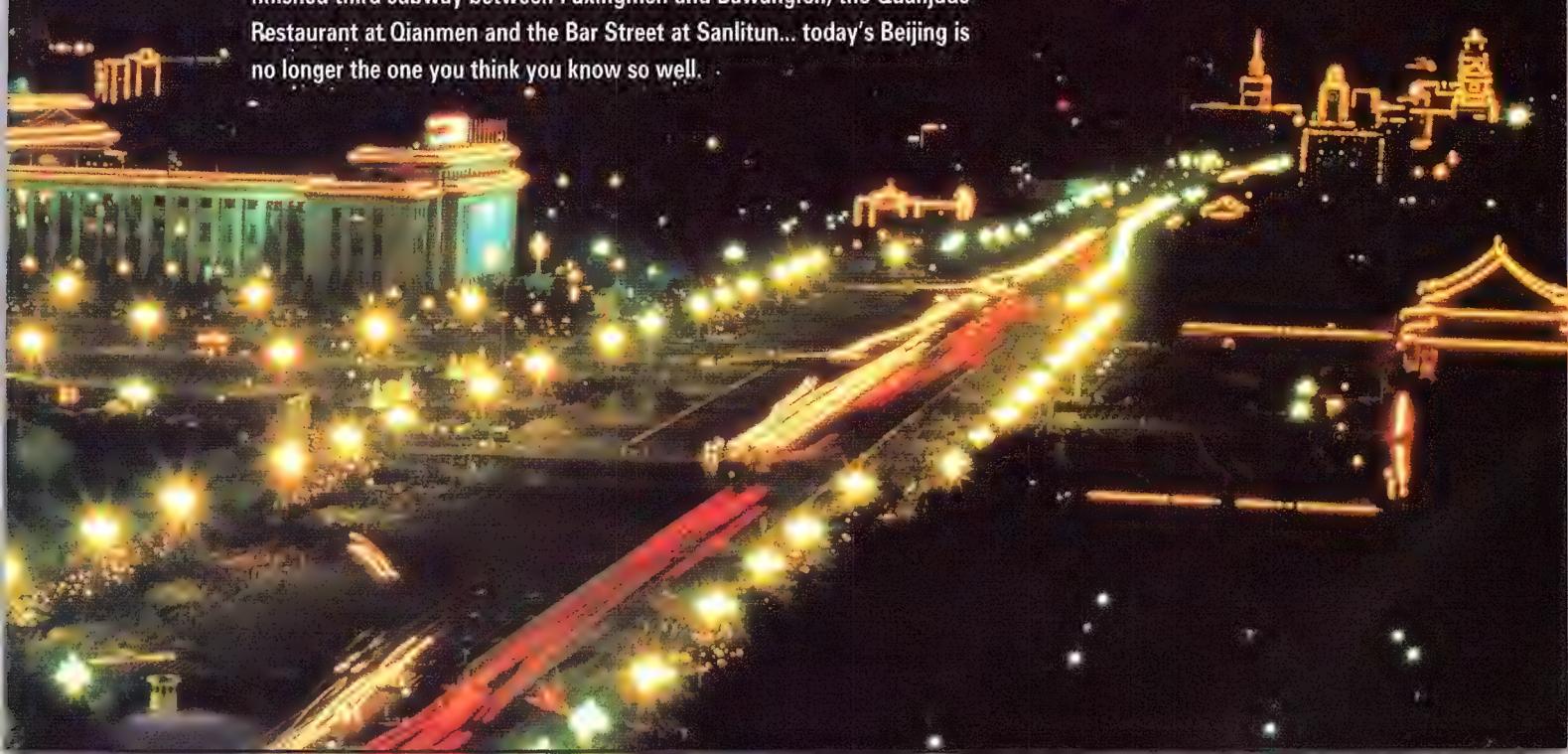




FEATURE STORY

# Rambling in the Capital City of Beijing

Mention Beijing and ancient sites such as the Palace Museum, Tian'anmen Square, Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall immediately leap to mind. In fact, Beijing is changing so fast that even when you return after a recent trip, you always find something new in this modern metropolis. The national flag-hoisting ceremony at sunrise, the thriving Wangfujing Street, the Badaling Great Wall glowing at night, the newly finished third subway between Fuxingmen and Bawangfen, the Quanjude Restaurant at Qianmen and the Bar Street at Sanlitun... today's Beijing is no longer the one you think you know so well.



Photos by Li Fei  
Article by Su Xiaohuan

# New Look of an Ancient City





Beijing is an ancient capital where traditional cultural atmosphere prevails, but it is also a modern metropolis where new things appear consistently.

### Work Goes On in Beijing

The east-west Zhang Zizhong Road seems cooler in summer than most places thanks to the thick foliage of its trees. Last year, the street was suddenly turned into a work-site, as Beijing's new zoning plan incorporated it into Ping'an Avenue, already under reconstruction. As I usually cross this road on my way to work, I have seen its old houses torn down one after another, the road dug up section by section to lay huge pipelines, and the surfacing with asphalt. With each passing day, the new avenue grows longer and some old houses along it are restored to their original Ming and Qing styles marked by grey bricks and tiles. The new 7,000-metre-long Ping'an Avenue is expected to become a tourist attraction, with Shichahai and Di'anmen at its centre, representing Beijing's good old days.

Recently Beijingers have found themselves living in a mammoth worksite. Hardly had the Baishiqiao (White Stone Bridge)-Yiheyuan (Summer

Previous page: Tian'anmen Square on the festival night (by Hu Weibiao)

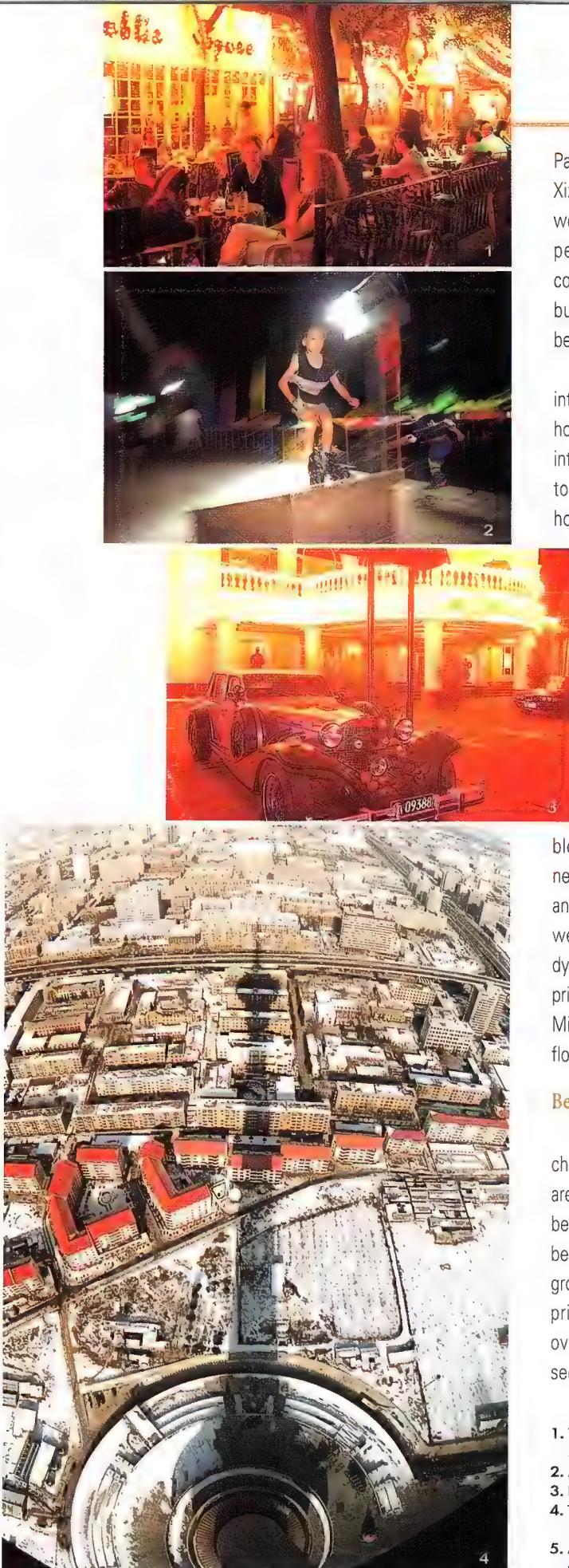
1. Beijing's road building has been developing rapidly. Its Fifth Ring Road is now under construction.

2. New high rises are springing up to replace the traditional *siheyuan*. (by Zhu Jianhui)

3. Sight of the flyover at Fuxingmen (by Wang Huiming)

4. The East Third Ring Road is sandwiched by towering buildings.





Palace) Road been widened and opened to traffic when the flyover at Xizhimen was torn apart to make room for a larger one. Tall fences were thrown up along Chang'an Boulevard before resurfacing of the pedestrian road. High-rise office buildings are springing up continuously. If you deviate from your usual route, you see that new buildings have changed the familiar streets and neighbourhoods beyond recognition.

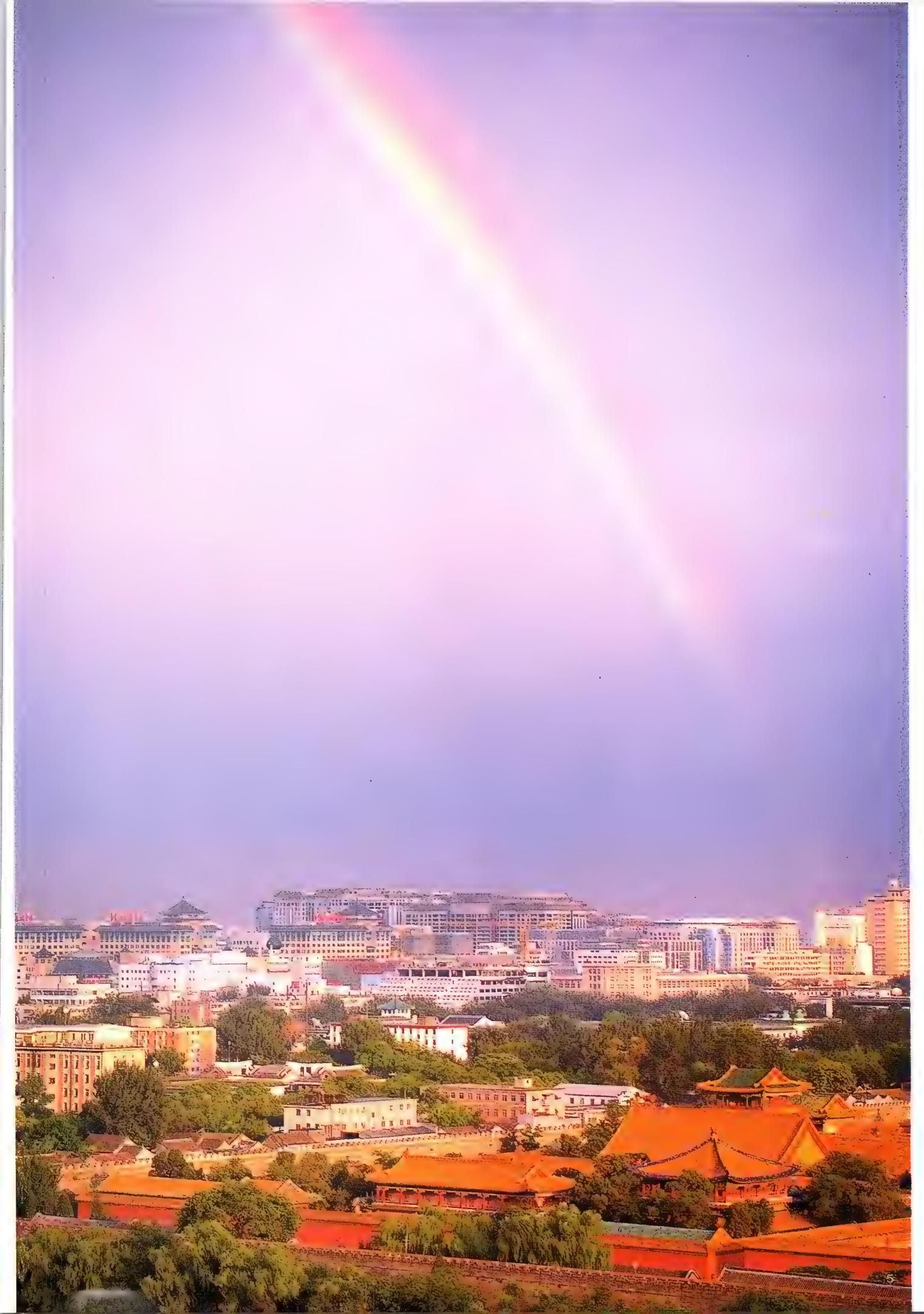
An imperial city rich in cultural heritage is fast becoming a modern international metropolis. Old landmarks — hutongs and old courtyard houses — are disappearing fast, as the city's old-timers happily move into apartments with tap water and natural gas. Only the old folks care to return occasionally to show their grandchildren where their old houses had been. Photographers tenaciously search for distinctive pictures of remaining hutongs and their residents, such as a front gate with peeling paint, wind-eroded stone sculptures and scantily-clad residents enjoying the cool breeze under some ancient-looking scholar tree.

Builders of today, mindful of Beijing's old-time appeal, still abide by the same north-south axial line in city planning. Great pains are being taken to preserve the ancient chess-like layout of streets. Ancient buildings have undergone repeated renovation, while retaining their original style. Last spring, 25 historical and cultural zones were put under protection, including 15 streets blocks, four traditional hutong-and-quadrangle zones, the three neighbourhoods of Shichahai, Guozijian, and Dongjiaominxiang Street, and the three commercial and cultural streets of Dashilar and east and west Liulichang. The largest zone, Shichahai, is the site of the Jin-dynasty Daning Palace, the Yuan-dynasty Grand Canal terminus, and princely mansions and huge houses of the rich and powerful during the Ming and Qing dynasties. After Ping'an Avenue is completed, a lotus flower market will be restored as a legacy of Shichahai.

### Beijing on Wheels

Hutongs, which used to be accessible only to rickshaws and sedan chairs, are now being forced to accommodate private cars. The cars are too big for the front gates of the quadrangles, and therefore have to be parked by the side of a narrow lane or back alley. Parking lots have been sprung up in newly-built residential quarters. Their size has been growing, yet they still seem to fall short of the snowballing number of private cars. Actually the roads in the city are already filled to overflowing with traffic, and the environmental pollution problem seems difficult to solve.

1. There are more than 60 bars at Sanlitun in east Beijing, making it a Street of Bars.
2. A roller-skating rink at Wangfujing
3. Fancy classic cars can be seen parked in front of some clubs.
4. The TV Tower provides a vantage spot for a panoramic view of the city. (by Tian Baoxi)
5. A rainbow appearing in the sky adds more colour to the ancient yet modern capital. (by Zhu Jianhui)





1. Going out by taxi with one's pet
2. Young people are often found in progressive Western fashions.
3. It is common among the newly wedded to spend several thousand yuan for a set of wedding photos.
4. Having tea in Prince Gong's Mansion means having a taste of the imperial life.



Beijingers have had enough of traffic jams. During rush hours, cars can only crawl along the Second and Third Ring roads. The flyovers, one-time emblems of Beijing's modernisation, have to be rebuilt to accommodate swelling traffic. The Xizhimen Flyover on Second Ring Road was built in 1978, when the city had only 400,000 cars. Today, the number has shot up to 1.3 million, not including the 9.9 million bicycles and pedicabs. Thus the flyover became a daunting barrier. Frequent traffic jams eventually prompted the municipal government to perform major "operations" on the Xizhimen Flyover as well as many others on ring roads.

Mass transit development is one way Beijing aims to overcome traffic jams. Fifty years ago, only a few routes of public buses ruled the old city's central area. Later, light-blue trolley buses came on the scene, playing a pivotal role in mass transit. Today, so many kinds of vehicles are in service — buses, mini-buses, air-conditioned or double deck buses, taxis — that it is difficult to say which of them are playing the leading part. The most unforgettable event for Beijing residents in the 1990s was the disappearance of yellow minivan taxis, favoured for their convenience and low costs. For some time, Beijing's streets were filled with "yellow dragon chains". Their drivers have long since switched to cars such as Shali, Fukang and Santanna.

### The Greening of Beijing

Beijing's old place names evoke memories of rivers that long ago criss-crossed the city. During the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), Guo Shoujing diverted water from the Grand Canal along a tunnel into the capital's Jishuitan Pool by way of Chuanban (Boat Board) Hutong, Nanheyuan (Riverside South) and Houmenqiao (Back Gate Bridge). Today, only their names remain. Some rivers became underground tunnels and others simply disappeared. Beijing today is one of the world's 108 water-poor cities. The city produces 2.4 million tons of industrial and residential sewage daily and causes serious pollution to the rivers, including the north and south moats, and Tonghui, Chaobai and Yongding rivers, which must be dredged every few years.

Water is the very essence of a city and the reason why cities are often built beside it. Thus, Beijing dredged its six inner-city lakes this year. The moat bed around the Palace Museum has been re-paved with stone slabs, and the buildings on its banks restored to their original architectural style. The Yongding River, dried up for many years, will be refilled, and pedestrians on the Marco Polo Bridge will once again see the moon mirrored in its water.

Beijing is striving to make its rivers clean, flowing and navigable, and cover their banks with vegetation. Old water-conservancy facilities that used to link today's newly-dredged rivers, and the Yuan-dynasty Maizhong Bridge, Guangyuan Sluice Gate, and the dock in Zizhuyuan (Purple Bamboo Park) from which the Express Dowager Cixi set off on a Summer Palace boat tour, will all be restored.

This past summer, Qianmen's Arrow Tower bus terminus was

removed to make room for a 20,000-square-metre greenery in the heart of Beijing's busiest commercial areas. More than a dozen hectares of green strips have been added to both sides of Chang'an Boulevard. Ginkgo and cedar trees have replaced degenerated Chinese scholar and poplar trees that dominated for half a century. In fact, 46 million ginkgo tree saplings from Shandong and Jiangsu have been planted on the banks of the Yongding, Chaobai and Dasha rivers and the northern part of the Grand Canal. Over 10,000 ginkgo trees, white pines, cedars and scholar trees have been planted along a 13-kilometre stretch of the road from Gongzhufen to Dabeiyao. Though Dongfang Plaza on Chang'an Boulevard has not been completed, 20 ginkgo trees have already been planted there.

### Beijing at Leisure

Many foreigners working in Beijing go to an Internet cafe near Baishiqiao to communicate with their relatives and friends by e-mail. In the relaxed atmosphere that prevails over the cafe it is also easy to make friends. Internet cafes have become ideal getaways for young people who like to nurse a cup of coffee while sending messages by e-mail, browsing internet news dispatches, playing computer games and making friends.

All at once all sorts of bars have sprung up in Beijing — wine bars, Internet bars and cafes, as well as bars featuring paintings, oxygen inhalation, books and pottery. The Diaokeshiguang (Cultivated Time) Book Bar on Chengfu Road with its ceiling-high cases that line three walls, caters to bookworms who like to sit down with a cup of alpine tea for a few hours of reading. On Thursdays and Saturdays the bar owner draws movie lovers with academy award winning old movies. Other attractions for bookworms are the bars of the Taofen Bookstore near the China Art Gallery and the newly-opened Capital Book Tower in Xidan. The bar street at Sanlitun near the embassy area glows nightly in neon lights, beckoning foreigners and white-collar workers to its string of bars: nostalgic country bars, youth bars for eligible bachelors and women's bars for the gentler sex.

The crowded Summer Palace, Beihai Park and Palace Museum are no longer attractive to Beijingers seeking weekend relaxation. More and more families are driving or taking the bus to the countryside for fresh air, and peace and tranquility. A walk in the shade of green trees away from cars and people, listening to the wind and your own footsteps, is what many people now cherish. New attractions are a dime a dozen in the suburbs: bungee jumping, rock climbing, rafting, horseback riding, car racing, parasailing, and subsistence training. Those who are interested in body-building, gymnastics and swimming would also have no trouble in satisfying their desires these days.

Ancient temples in Beijing's outskirts have also been renovated to accommodate urbanites seeking a weekend away from the city. Years ago, the white pagoda atop Miaofeng Mountain in west Beijing was in ruins, but as tourism developed, it was restored. However, visitors

have returned only to be disappointed by the lacklustre form of its restoration. In the same token, we have heavy hearts when we find the original quadrangles and hutongs being dwarfed or even submerged by a jungle of tall buildings in a fast-developing city.

### Beijing Above and Below

Until recently, my most obvious landmark in Beijing was Tian'anmen Square. Then, opposite my office building, the Zhongliang Plaza, a combination of office buildings and shopping mall, suddenly arose. Later 13 tall buildings sprang up on the northern side of Chang'an Boulevard between Dongdan and Wangfujing, their blue glass walls forming part of a magnificent skyline that now soars and plunges. Dongfang Plaza, Asia's biggest civilian construction project undertaken jointly by Beijing and Hong Kong companies, is known not only for its pompous surface structures but also its 328,000-square-metre four-floor basement that embraces shopping malls, parking lots, a transformer station and a palaeoanthropology exhibition. During its construction, the ruins of a palaeoanthropologic site of the Late Paleolithic period some 20,000 years ago was discovered.

Archaeological discoveries are often found during road or housing construction in Beijing. In May 1991, a group of ancient tombs were discovered during construction of the Shangdi High and New Technology Development Zone. The following year an archaeological team of the Beijing Municipal Cultural Relics Research Institute entered the scene, and by 1998 it had verified the ruins of 1,138 tombs and other structures from the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) to the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911). These include four Warring States tombs, 523 tombs, 18 wells and 23 brick kilns from the Han Dynasty, six Tang-dynasty, 23 Liao- and Jin-dynasty and one Yuan-dynasty tombs, and about 500 tombs from the Ming and Qing dynasties. They are by far the largest cluster of archaeological discoveries spanning such a long period of time.

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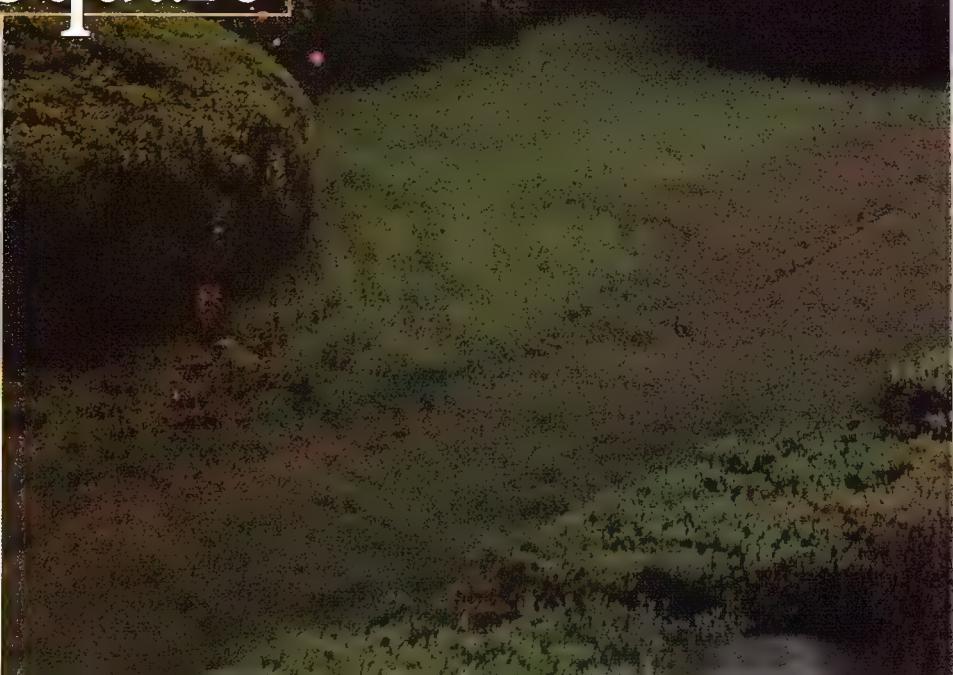


4



Photos & article by  
Xie Guanghui

# One Day in Tiananmen Square







**Previous page:**

1. The Great Hall of the People at night (by Zhu Jianhui)
2. Tian'anmen Rostrum in the glow of morning rays

**This page:**

1. Lawns have been newly planted on the edges of the Tian'anmen Square.
2. Souvenirs marking the national flag raising ceremony sell well at the square.
3. The solemn moment
4. A foreign visitor shooting the flag raising ceremony with his camcorder
5. Tourists are reluctant to leave after the ceremony is over.



The street lamps are switched off and Chang'an Boulevard instantly loses its greyish contours. Under the watchful eyes of two guards who stand motionless like bronze statues, the flag-pole platform with white marble balustrades on the northern end of Tian'anmen Square is already mobbed by a crowd awaiting the flag-hoisting ceremony that begins as the sun rises beyond the Bohai Sea. The crowd includes impeccably attired officials, merchants in Western suits, students, tourists and honeymooners.

### A Moment of Solemnity

The eastern sky is flooded by a scarlet glow while the waiting crowd keeps swelling. Latecomers stand on tiptoes and stretch their necks to see beyond the ocean of black heads as someone shouts.

The crowd stirs and feet shift as the spectators close ranks into an impenetrable wall. This throws those left out of the "wall" into panic and they jump like dolphins bobbing on the sea. Young men appear out of nowhere with stools in their hands, shouting, "Five yuan apiece! If you still can't see I won't charge you a penny!" The spectators, burning with impatience, pay without objection.

Chang'an Boulevard, where the traffic flows 24 hours a day, seems to quieten down momentarily. In the distance, a detachment of soldiers emerge from the archway of the Tian'anmen Rostrum above which Mao Zedong's portrait is hung. Quickly they march across the boulevard into the square, with eyes fixed and arms swaying in a goose-step drill. As they stop at the flag pole, three men step onto the platform, fasten the national flag to the rope and turn to face the Tian'anmen Rostrum. The flag unfolds in the wind and rises gradually to the beat of the National Anthem. Spectators stand at attention and salute the flag with their eyes. Solemnity reigns.

### Ceremonial Column: Log for Opinions

A short, lean old man standing by the white marble balustrade of the Golden River Bridge explained to the child beside him, "The Tian'anmen Rostrum was built to give the aristocrats a place to talk to the peasants."

That was long before the industrial age, when Beijing's population consisted of only two groups of people: aristocrats and peasants. The animal squatting atop the two ceremonial white marble columns in front of the rostrum was appropriately called "heaven gazer", which was designed to remind the emperor to resist the indulgences and debauchery of the outside world and remain in the palace to run the country. The columns at one time were called "Log for Opinions", because originally they served as the boards for people to inscribe their complaints on. Whether it worked or not, at least it showed the rulers' intention to listen to their subjects. In fact, during the dynastic days, the palace was so heavily guarded that commoners never got near it.



### The Familiar Sight of Flying Kites

Grandfather Cui, who lives in a hutong in the nearby Qianmen neighbourhood, is one of Tian'anmen Square's daily kite fliers. As he sets the wheel of string in motion, his centipede-shaped kite ascends into the sky, its eyeballs rolling and its elongated body floating gently.

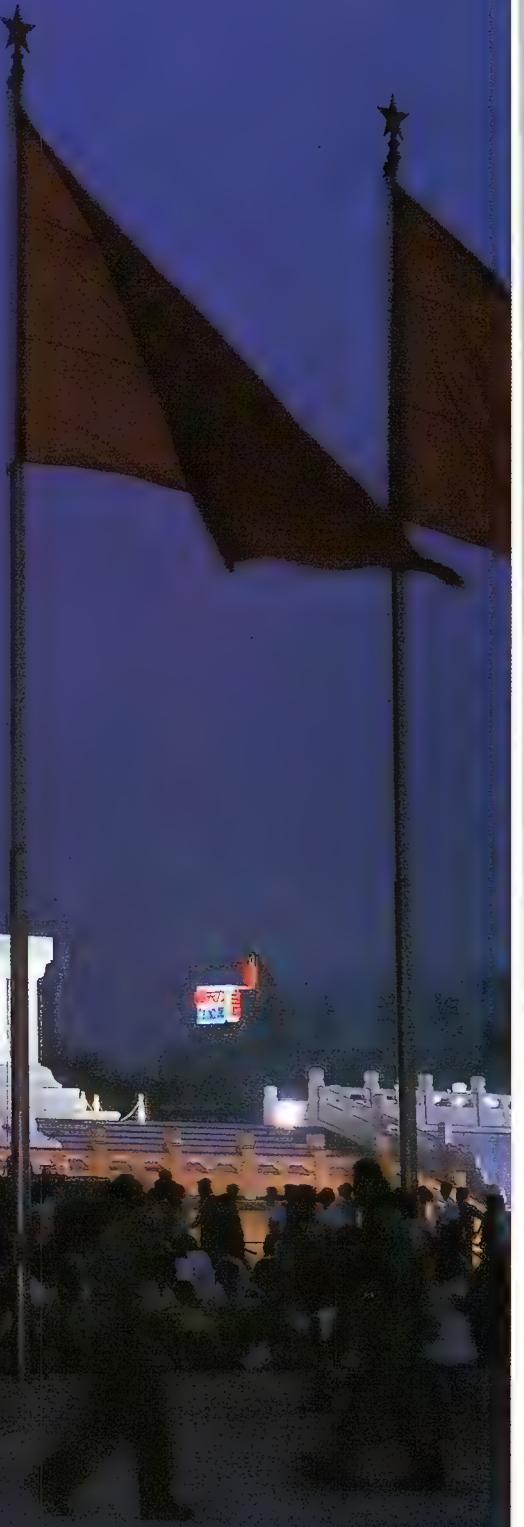
"Did you make the kite yourself?" a young tourist, amazed by the old man's dexterity, asks. As the old man nods yes, the youth goes on to say that it seems a great place to fly kites.

"You bet. I've been playing with kites here since childhood," Cui says. "In those days the square was barely one twentieth its size today. On a windy day, dust filled the air and in the rain, it was all muddy. In 1952, the left and right Chang'an Gates and Zhonghua Gate were torn down. In 1955, the square was expanded by tearing down the east and west vermillion walls. The square was paved with cement bricks and then the Monument to the People's Heroes was built, followed by the Great Hall of the People and the museums of the Chinese revolution and Chinese history. In 1977, the Mao Zedong Memorial Hall was constructed on the square's southern edge. This year, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the People's Republic, the square was given a major facelift and paved with granite slabs."

When Cui learns the tourist had visited the rostrum, he tells him that he is lucky as few people had the chance to climb up there before it was opened in 1987.



人民英雄永垂不朽



It is four in the afternoon when Cui retrieves his kite. He dodges the children playing soccer under the Zhengyang Gate as he makes for the underground tunnel across Qianmen Avenue and disappears into the depths of his hutong.



2

### Pictures and Memories for the Taking

The sunlight slants westward, throwing the belt-like shadow of the Monument to the People's Heroes to the ground. Xiao Qianguang, from Wuhan, emerges with his wife and daughter from the southern gate of the Mao Zedong Memorial Hall. The three of them thread through the crowd to find a photo booth for a family picture in front of the Tian'anmen Rostrum. Excitedly, Xiao tells the photographer, "I visited Beijing in 1966 when Red Guards were disseminating Mao's revolutionary theory. That day in the square I saw Mao driven past in a jeep. The encounter kept me excited for many years. Then I had wanted my picture taken at the square, but did not have the money."



3



4

The people who go to the square all have their own stories: lovers who vow their love for each other; old men of leisure who enjoy walking or flying kites; local residents who want their pictures taken before travelling. Few people, including foreigners, visit Beijing without taking photos in the square.

### The Symbol of China

It took more than 500 years for Tian'anmen to emerge from the emperors' Forbidden City gate to become the symbol of New China. The last century has filled the square with events, such as a congregation of 1,300 national examination candidates protesting against the signing of the Sino-Japanese Treaty of Shimonoseki, the drills of the Eight-Power Allied Forces and the demonstration of the May 4th Movement, not to mention the many celebrations.

As dusk falls, the square is bathed in the rosy glow of the setting sun. The crowd observing the flag-lowering ceremony scatters, reminding newspaper peddlers that this is a good chance to sell their papers. The lights are turned on, throwing colour upon the buildings at the Tian'anmen Square, and the crowd thins out.

If the Yellow River is the cradle of the nation of China, then Tian'anmen is the symbol of the People's Republic. 

1. The Monument to the People's Heroes after a new facelift (by Zhu Jianhui)
2. Looking for one's bicycle at a parking lot after a visit to the Tian'anmen Square
3. Monks having their pictures taken at Tian'anmen Square
4. Life-time companions
5. Enjoying the festival night in Tian'anmen Square

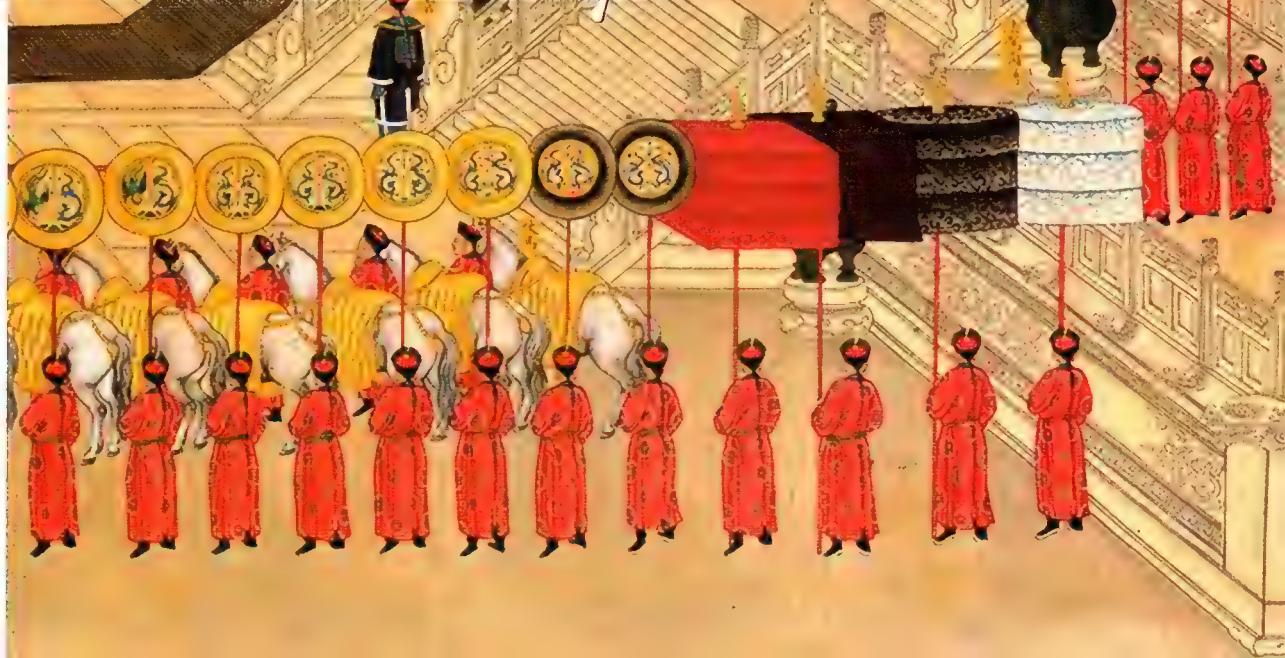


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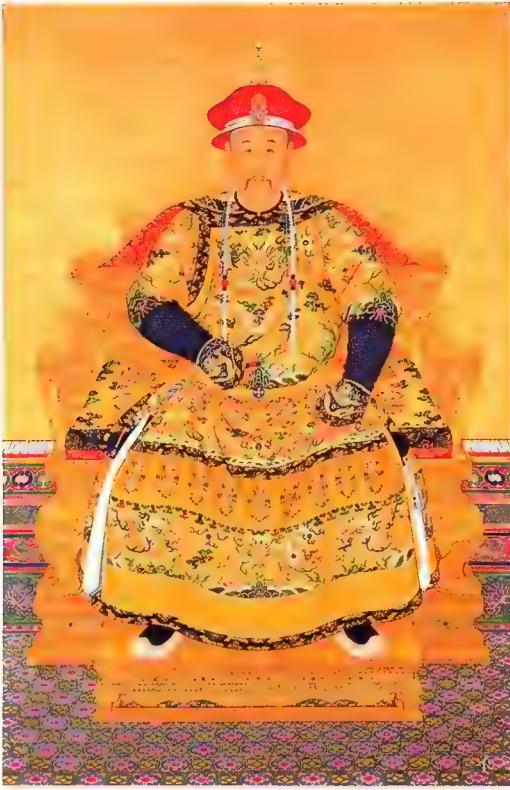


# Stories of the Forbidden City

Photos by Hu Chui  
Article by Wu Jun

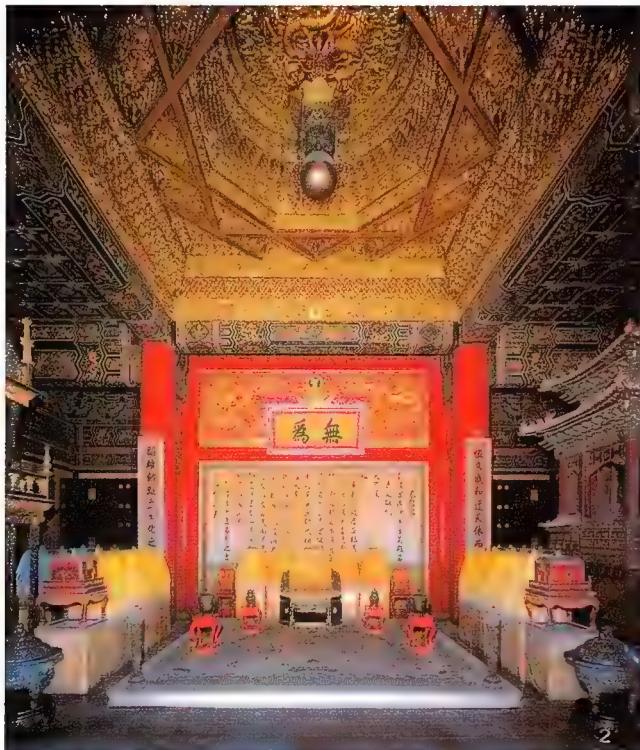






**Previous page:** A drawing illustrating the wedding of Emperor Guangxu

1. Emperor Yongzheng in his imperial suite
2. Jiaotaidian was where the empress conducted rituals for various celebrations.
3. Staff members of the Palace Museum riding bicycles in the former imperial palace



assing through the two gateways, Tian'anmen and Duanmen, we come to a U-shaped square in front of Wumen (Meridian Gate). This gate, the Forbidden City's main gate, is often mentioned in old operas and novels.

When the emperor became angry with ministers over their criticisms or serious mistakes, he would pat his imperial table and shout, "Decapitate him outside Wumen!"

The bell and drum on opposite sides of Wumen were struck for different purposes — the bell when the emperor offered sacrifices to the temple of altars, the drum for sacrifices to the Confucius Temple. During a grand ceremony both were sounded. Annually on the 15th day of the first lunar month in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the emperor would feast civil and military officials at Wumen. On the first day of the 10th lunar month in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), the emperor would hold a ceremony to issue the calendar at Wumen. It is a wonder that such a solemn and sacred place could also be an execution ground.

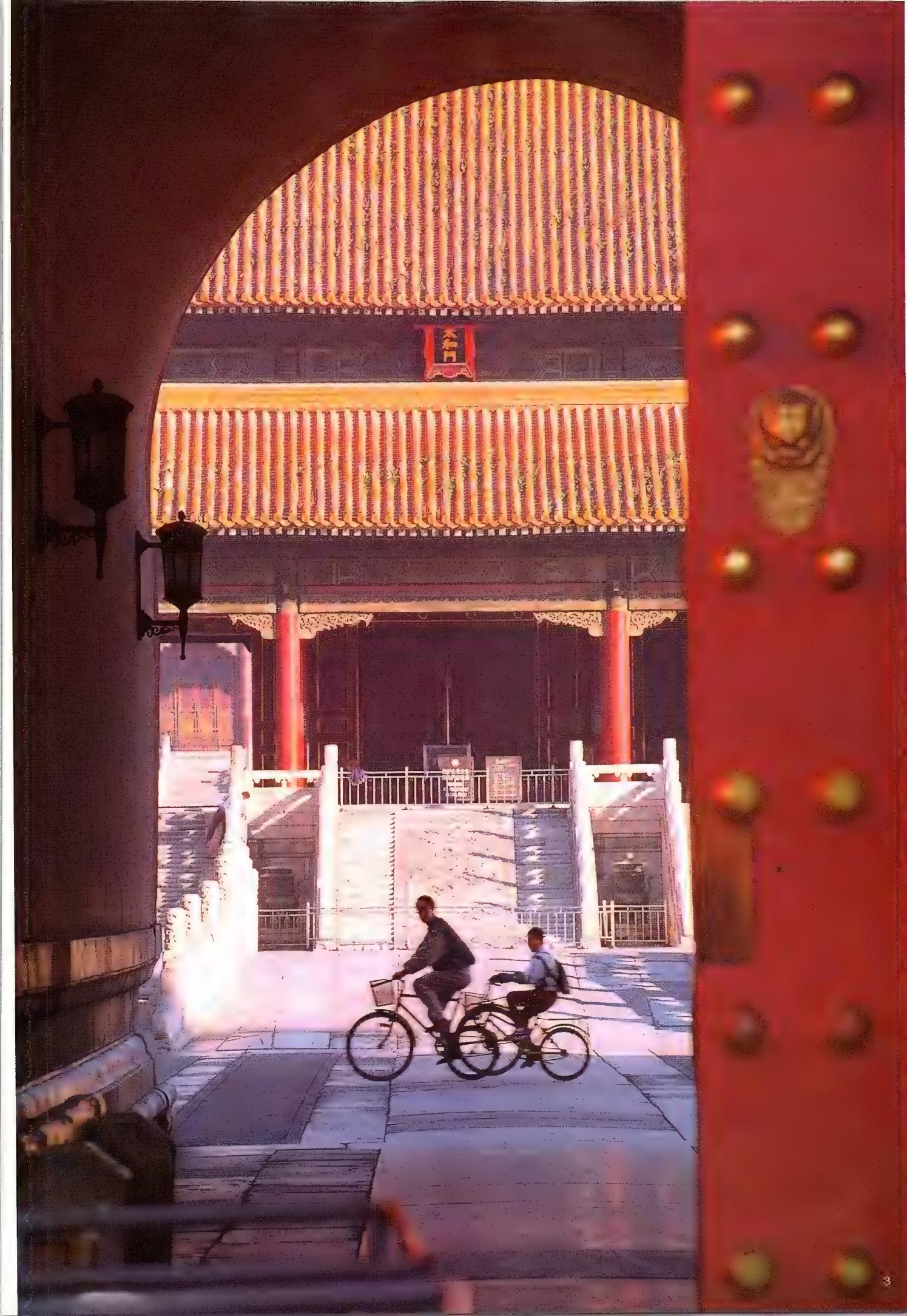
In the Ming Dynasty, executions took place in the market street; in the late Qing Dynasty, Tan Sitong and other five chief members of the Reform Movement of 1898 were executed at Caishikou southwest of the Forbidden City. Ministers who offended the emperor were punished with a flogging outside Wumen.

## 24 Emperors Sat on the Throne

Inside Wumen, a canal called the Inner Golden Stream, spanned by white marble balustrades, winds from east to west. Although it breaks the symmetrical layout of the Forbidden City, it brings in water from the city moat and also provides drainage. At that time, the main worry inside the palace, besides security, was fire prevention. All around the Forbidden City, now known as the Palace Museum, were 308 large bronze cauldrons that stored water. In winter, a fire was set under them to prevent the water from freezing.

There are five bridges across the stream. The central one, or the Imperial Bridge, was used only by the emperor, and the other four were called Guest Bridges, used by the princes and ministers to attend the grand imperial ceremonies held in Taihedian (Hall of Supreme Harmony).

The further inside the Palace Museum you go, the quieter it is. Passing through Taihem'en (Gate of Supreme Harmony), you enter a vast empty square. The central, white marble Imperial Way extends to Taihedian, which has vermilion doors and windows, and glazed tiles. The first emperor to happily walk into the Forbidden City was Ming-dynasty Emperor Yongle and the last emperor to leave sadly was Puyi at the end of the Qing Dynasty. Over 491 years there were altogether 24 emperors who had lived here. Taihedian is the largest wood-structured palace in China. On its coffered ceiling are patterns of golden dragons and at its centre are curled dragons in relief. The pitch-black earthen bricks on the ground are bright and shining. In the centre of the hall, on a platform of *nanmu* wood, is a gilded throne carved with nine dragons. In the Ming and Qing dynasties, grand ceremonies were held



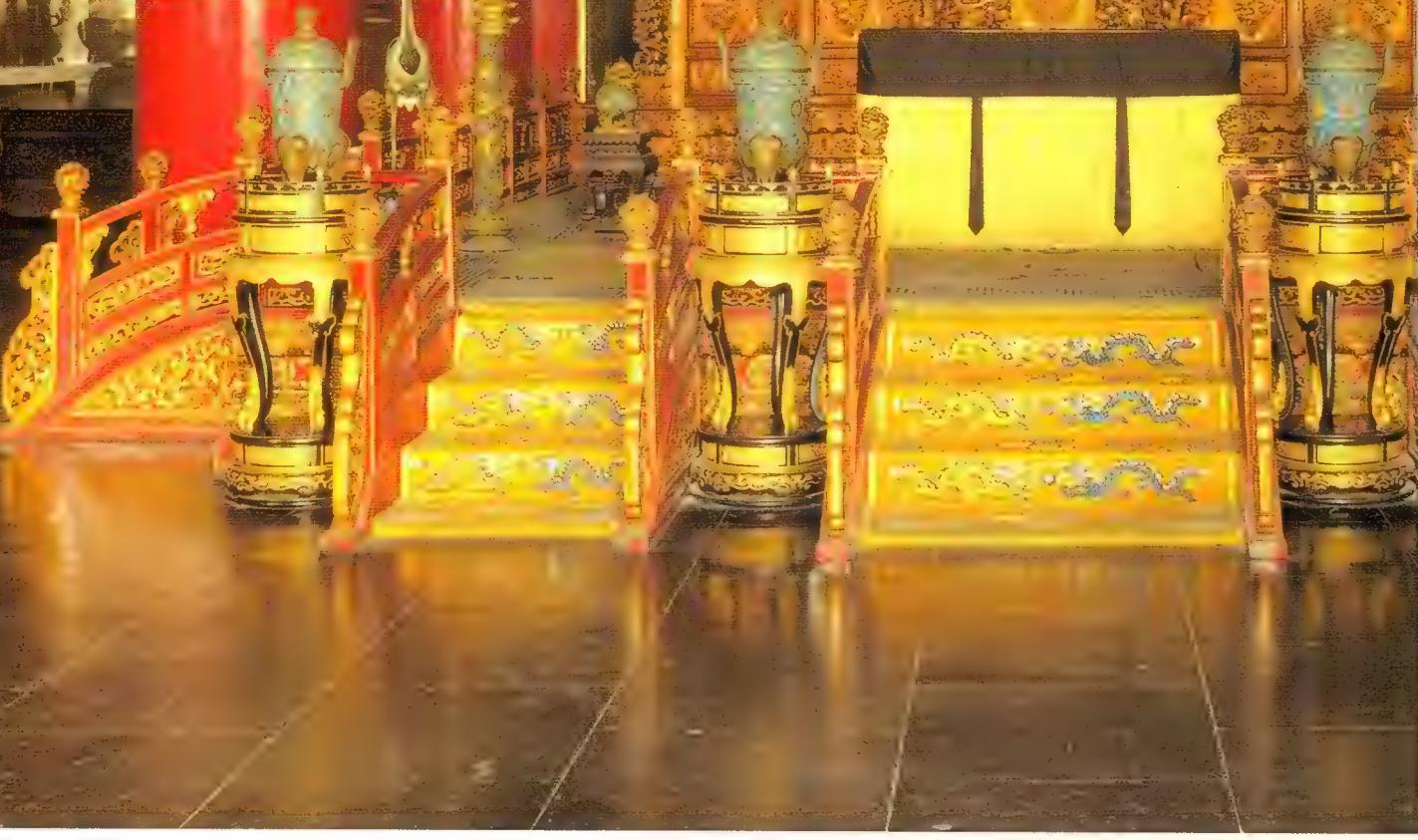
正大光明



惟精惟一 之道積于屢新

弘敷五典無輕民事惟

乾隆丁巳年春





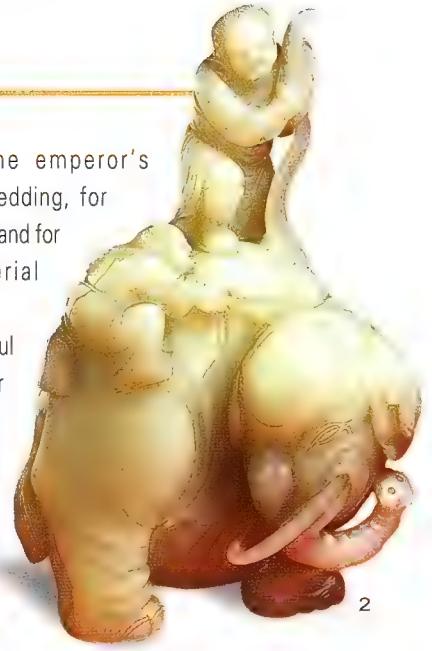
in the hall to celebrate the emperor's enthronement, birthday and wedding, for conferment of the title of empress and for the final test of the imperial examinations.

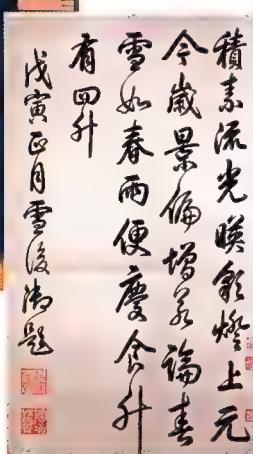
Only provincial level successful candidates who passed another examination could attend the final test in the palace. Only at this stage did the intellectuals of ancient China finally win their glory after years of hard work.

### Shipping a Stone of 250 Tons

Baoedian (Hall of Preserved Harmony) is the last of the three halls in the Outer Court of the imperial palace. It is smaller in scale than Taihedian. Behind this hall, there is the Yunlongshi (Dragon Pavement) carved with patterns of cliffs, sea waves, clouds and nine dragons playing pearls with their mouths. This 250-ton block of marble, covering 50 square metres, is the largest in the Palace Museum. Visitors often halt in front of it, wondering how it had been shipped there. It would not be an easy job even today to transport it from Fangshan in the western suburbs of Beijing to the city, let alone then. In those days, on roads extending over 70 kilometres between Fangshan and Beijing, a well was sunk every 10 metres. In winter, wooden rollers were used under

1. Qianqinggong was where the emperor called in his ministers and received foreign envoys.
2. White Jade Elephant, a precious art piece of the Palace Museum
3. A cloisonné wine holder of the Qing Dynasty





1. A picture depicting Emperor Kangxi reading
2. An inscription in the handwriting of Emperor Kangxi
3. The Military and Administrative Office
4. The compound of Taihedian, Hall of Supreme Harmony



the stone blocks, and the road was sprinkled with well water to make an icy path for easy transport. It took more than 10,000 labourers and many domestic animals over one month to ship the large stone.

Qianqingmen (Gate of Heavenly Purity) divides the Outer and Inner courts of the Palace Museum. The square in front of it is where the emperor listened to reports and administered governmental affairs in the

Qing Dynasty. Emperor Kangxi was the most diligent among all the Qing emperors and held court almost every day. Once a minister suggested to cut it to every three or four days, but Emperor Kangxi reportedly said, "It has been my rule for over 30 years; if I don't go every day, I'll feel uneasy." Kangxi was not talking extravagantly. At the court, he made the major decisions to suppress Wu Sangui, recover Taiwan and fight against Russia.

Inside Qianqingmen was the residential area of the emperor. Without permission, the ministers were not allowed to enter.

### Selection of the Successor

The period during the reign of Emperors Kangxi, Yongzheng and Qianlong was recorded in history as a flourishing era paralleling that of Emperor Zhenguan of Tang Dynasty (618-907). Emperor Kangxi ascended the throne at eight years of age and began administering governmental affairs at 14. His father had left him an integrated China and he could easily have enjoyed his life with little effort since power was in the hand of the regent minister Aobai. Emperor Kangxi, though very young, dared to challenge the Aobai group and eliminated it at the age of 16. At 20, he began to suppress Wu Sangui, who considered himself a hero of the Qing empire and had become a warlord in southern China. After eight years, Kangxi won the war. In effect, he had re-conquered the whole of China, proving himself a creator rather than a heir.

Emperor Kangxi, however, became very tired and worried in his later years. His biggest worry was the selection of his successor. He had twice announced his second son Yunreng as the crown prince, but twice removed him. He also fell sick, and his sons were fighting or ganging up on each other for the throne. There are different versions about how the fourth son Yinzhen became the emperor. Some said





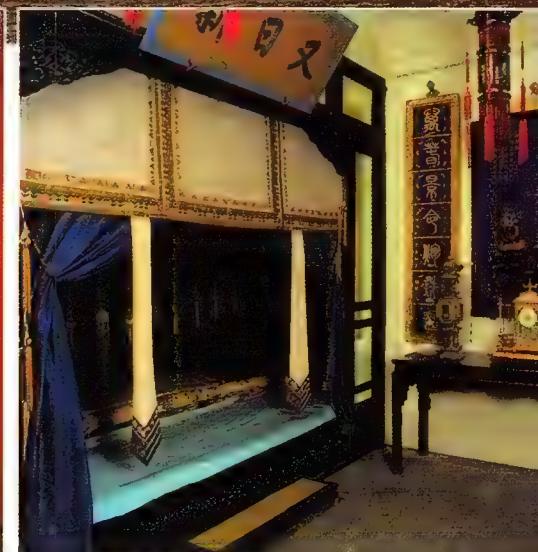
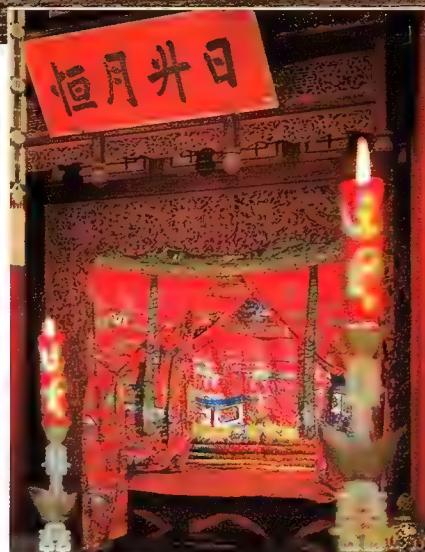
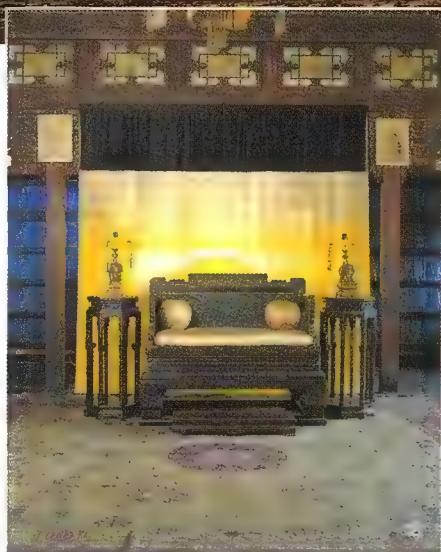
that it was decided by Kangxi himself and others said that Yinzhen had someone have the edict changed from "give the throne to the fourteenth son" to "give the throne to the fourth son". From then on, a new system was introduced to hide the edict for selection of the crown prince behind a horizontal plaque inscribed with *Zheng Da Guang Ming* (Justice and Honour).

### Warm in Winter, Cool in Summer

Emperor Yongzheng, feeling unequal to his celebrated father, did not have the heart to live in Qianqinggong (Palace of Heavenly Purity) as his father had. He chose Yangxindian (Hall of Mental Cultivation)

which is one block off the Forbidden City's central axis. Eight emperors after him all lived there.

Sitting at an imperial table in Yangxindian's main room, Emperor Yongzheng read reports from officials, called in civil and military officials, received foreign envoys and handled court affairs. A passage leads from Yangxindian to the bed chamber in the rear; to its west is a room with a bed and scrolls of paintings and calligraphy on the wall. In the east room is an imperial seat under the northern wall and a table under the southern windows. The "dragon bed" in its inner room has a mosquito net and bedding made of embroidered bright yellow silk from Suzhou and Hangzhou. Exquisitely-made scent bags are hung in the





net, giving off an aroma that fills the room.

The palace was cleverly designed to be warm in winter and cool in summer. There are fire tunnels criss-crossing beneath the emperor's chamber. In winter, eunuchs put burning charcoal into these tunnels to provide heat. In summer, all the windows and doors were open and ice blocks were brought to the chamber from the imperial cellar to cool the air. Actually, since the early Qing Dynasty, all the emperors spent their summers in the Summer Palace or the Mountain Resort in Chengde.

Adjacent to the emperor's residence are Tishuntang, the temporary bedroom of the empress and Yanxitang, the temporary bedroom for the imperial concubines. The two halls are connected with the houses at the back wall, which has two gates called Jixiang (Auspicious) and Ruyi (Good Luck), for the concubines' convenient



access from the six east and west palaces.

During Emperor Yongzheng's reign, there were often urgent messages at night that needed his immediate attention. Since the cabinet was in the southeast corner far from Yangxindian and not private enough, the emperor set up the Military and Administrative Office west of Qianqingmen.

### Emperor Qianlong's Passions

After Yongzheng's death, the minister in charge of emperor's affairs opened the edict sealed behind the "Justice and Honour" plaque, which read: "Hongli, Prince Bao and the fourth son of the emperor, is kind by nature and on good terms with friends. He was loved most by Emperor Kangxi among all his grandsons. Now the Great Disaster has come, he should ascend the throne to be the emperor." Hongli thus became Emperor Qianlong. Later, Jiaqing, Daoguang and Xianfeng were all declared emperors this way. This method was not used by Emperors Tongzhi and Guangxu as both were heirless.

1. The Hall of Supreme Harmony, a rarely seen wooden structure, is the largest building in the Palace Museum.
2. The Eastern Warm Chamber was where the Empress Dowager Cixi administrated the country behind the screen.
3. The emperor's wedding bed, the baizi net implying that the couple would have many sons and grandsons
4. The emperor's bed in the Mental Cultivation Hall, which served as the emperor's living quarter since Emperor Yongzheng
5. Empress Dowager Cixi



In the Western Warm Chamber of Yangxindian, in a room called Sanxitang, Emperor Qianlong housed the calligraphy of Wang Xizhi, Wang Xianzhi and Wang Xun of the Jin Dynasty (265-420). Today it remains decorated as it was then. Fond of calligraphy and painting, the emperor gave orders to collect books throughout the country and had them classified into *Classical Works*, *Historical Works*, *Philosophical Works* and *Literary Works* — the *Complete Collection of Four Traditional Divisions*, over a period of 10 years. However, compared with Kangxi and Yongzheng, he also had more authors persecuted because of their writings.

Emperor Qianlong fought many battles at large military expense. He made six southern expedition tours, all extravagant and wasteful. In addition, corruption in the court became common at that time, with He Shen, the prime minister, as an example. In fact the decline of the Qing Dynasty had already begun during his reign though the empire still looked prosperous then.

### Administering Behind a Curtain

The Qing court's collapse was caused by the Empress Dowager Cixi who was illiterate and made no achievements at all. In the Eastern Warm Chamber of Yangxindian there are displayed two seats, a single seat in front and a double rear seat, separated by a yellow gauze curtain.

On December 24, 1868, Zeng Guofan, commander of the Hunan Army who quelled the Uprising of the Heavenly Kingdom, was called into this chamber. Following is the episode described by Zeng in his *Chronicle*: "The 11-year-old Emperor Tongzhi sat facing west, while the two empress dowagers, Ci'an and Cixi, the real power holders, sat behind, shielded by the curtain. I entered and kneeled in respect: 'Your servant Zeng Guofan is here greeting Your Majesty.' Then, taking off my hat, I kowtowed, saying, 'Your servant Zeng Guofan thanks your heavenly kindness.' I rose and walked a few steps to kneel on a cushion."

Empress Dowager Cixi was the one to ask questions about his southern campaign as Ci'an did not care much for such things. Zeng's answers were, as was normal then, humble, extremely cautious and warily framed. This general who commanded millions of Hunan troops spoke carefully because he and his brother had defeated the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom which had been threatening the Qing court for many years. They had achieved unparalleled success in the Qing Dynasty's history. Someone speculated that since he had taken half of the country, perhaps he was ready to attack Beijing and overthrow the Qing government. When this was written down on a slip of paper, Zeng swallowed the paper rather than throw it away. Zeng Guofan knew every word of *Lao Zi*, and understood perfectly well that "outstanding merit might make the boss feel threatened". One careless answer to the powerful Empress Dowager Cixi might be dangerous.

and lead to his entire family's deaths.

In the seventh year of the reign of Emperor Guangxu, Ci'an died suddenly. Cixi then sat alone behind the curtain. She controlled the government until her death in 1908.

## Exits of the Last Ming and Qing Emperors

Kunninggong (Palace of Earthly Tranquillity) was the residence of the Ming empresses. While Li Zicheng was attacking Beijing, Emperor Chongzhen wielded his sword to cut off the arm of 15-year-old Princess Changping, and killed six-year-old Princess Zhaoping and Imperial Concubine Yuan for fear that they might be captured by the enemy. The emperor hanged himself on Jingshan Hill and Empress Zhou hanged herself in the palace.

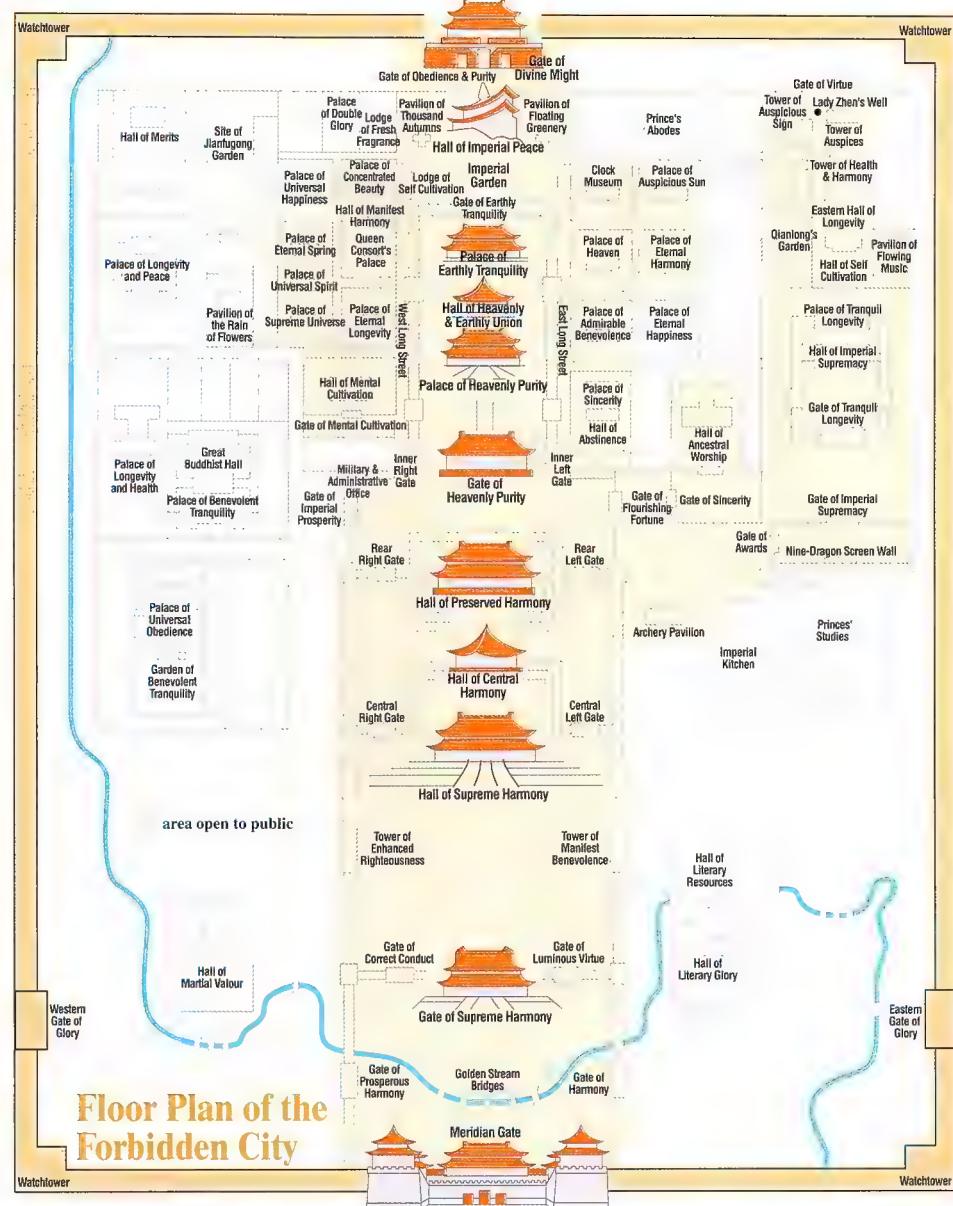
In the Qing Dynasty, Kunninggong was renovated. Its five western rooms were used for religious worships and the Eastern Chamber was converted into the emperor's wedding chamber, with a dragon-and-phoenix wedding bed. According to Qing rules, the emperor only stayed with the empress for two days after the wedding and then returned to Yangxindian. The empress and imperial concubines lived in the east and west palaces. Behind Kunninggong is the Imperial Garden. The thresholds of its east and west gates, and most in the Inner Court had been removed by Puyi to make his bicycle riding convenient.

The Revolution of 1911, led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, overthrew the Qing government. When Puyi exited through Shenwumen, he seemed to be in the footsteps of the Ming emperor Chongzhen. Their mood might have been the same, but their fates were different — Puyi was leaving the palace with his wife and concubine by car.



Translated by M. Q.

1. Most part of Kunninggong, where the Ming-dynasty empress lived, was used for worshipping the gods in the Qing Dynasty. Pictured is where the Stove God was worshipped.
2. Chuixugong was where imperial concubines lived.
3. The well in which Imperial Concubine Zhen was drowned
4. The dragons and pearls decorated on the ceiling of the Hall of Supreme Harmony



# Roaming Through Beijing's Hutongs

Photos & article  
by Guan Fei





The silence is shattered by the ringing bells when a long procession of pedicabs with red awnings emerge from the maze of hutongs in the Shichahai neighbourhood of Beijing. The strapping young men pedalling them unanimously wear distinctive sleeveless vests. Their patrons are mostly foreigners, who seem to enjoy this leisurely way of visiting ordinary Chinese families living in hutongs too narrow for automobile traffic.

### A Separated World of Hutongs

Hutongs are actually alleys fanning out in all directions that knit the city's streets into an extensive labyrinth, with the Forbidden City in the centre. The hutongs in south and north Beijing were home to the common people, while those in the city's east were reserved for rich merchants and those in the west occupied by members of the imperial family.

The hutong tour programme is centred on Shichahai area in Xicheng (West City) District because it is close by the Rear Lake which has many lakeside residential houses, big mansions and princely gardens as well as houses of ordinary people. Nowhere is old Beijing's daily life better reflected.

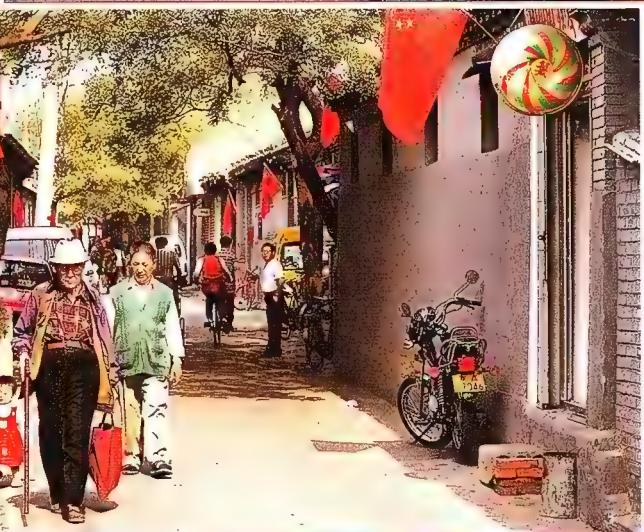
The first stop is the Drum Tower. A steep staircase leads to top of the tower situated on the axial line of the capital. Beijing in October looks its seasonal best; the wind is mild, the sun warm. The gold-glazed tiles of the tower's rooftop glisten under an azure sky like a pompous imperial house. As seen from the tower's top floor, the former imperial buildings spread symmetrically from the axial line, a layout that gives expression to Confucian philosophy.

### Extravagance of the Qing Prince

Prince Gong's Mansion, west of the imperial city, is the second stop on the pedicab-tour itinerary. First owned by He Shen, a minister during the rule of Qing Emperor Qianlong, it was converted for use by Prince Gong (Yixin), a younger brother of Emperor Xianfeng. This most elaborately landscaped and best preserved Qing-dynasty princely mansion in Beijing consists of three groups of buildings and a large garden with chambers, terraces, waterside kiosks, rock sculptures and lotus ponds, all linked by a labyrinth of winding roads and zigzagging corridors. The Moon-Inviting Terrace was where the prince wined and dined his guests amidst a gentle breeze. The Grand Theatre is the most sumptuous building on the premises, where friends and family members were feted and entertained. After the Manchus entered Beijing, they adopted the Han culture and many other features of daily life.

The mansion's layout is similar to that of the Grand View Garden depicted in the 18th-century Chinese classic *A Dream of Red Mansions*. Today it is also a nice place to enjoy a bit of imperial life — having tea served by courteous, bowing women attired in palace maids' fashions.

1. Drum Tower, situated on the axial of the imperial capital, is the first stop of the hutong tour. (by Liu Jiaxiang)
2. Visiting the hutongs by pedicabs
3. A Beijing hutong during the National Day celebrations (by Diao Lisheng)
4. Senior Beijing residents enjoying a leisurely life



接福迎春



## Horses for Generals, Sedans for Officials

The visitors continue their tour, stopping at a courtyard, where the first thing that comes into sight is a tall screen wall set on a marble pedestal and topped with dark cylindrical tiles. Behind it is a porch with a ridged roof lacking ornaments of mythological animals and celestial beings, indicating it had not been an imperial home. The brackets under the eaves, painted with colourful cloud patterns, and the plaques hanging under the eaves, inscribed with words such as "Transforming Grass and Trees into Quilts" and "Be Diligent with Government Affairs and Solicitous to the People", suggest it might have belonged to a court official. Beside the black-lacquered doors decorated with animal knockers is a couplet that suggests the owner had been successful in the imperial examinations.

A general's house of the imperial days has a different look. At its gate are posts for tethering the horses, stone steps for mounting horses and stone lions flanking the door. "While generals ride horses, court officials travel by sedan chairs," one of the pedicab drivers recalls this saying.

The front gate opens onto a screen wall of grey bricks. Living in the courtyard house behind the wall is a big family. The main northern suite belongs to the family's elders. The elder brother and his wife live in the eastern suite, the younger brother occupies the western suite, while the daughter lives in the wing suite that appears to be linked with the main one but is actually separated by a gable wall.

## Changes in Courtyard Life

A rich family in old Beijing usually lived in a courtyard with tanks of goldfish tucked amidst pomegranate trees. In the shade of an overhead canopy the family played with pets and was waited on by maids. An ordinary family's courtyard was likely planted with grapes, roses, morning glory and green rattan plants, so that in summer they could eat, drink, play chess or read books in the shade.

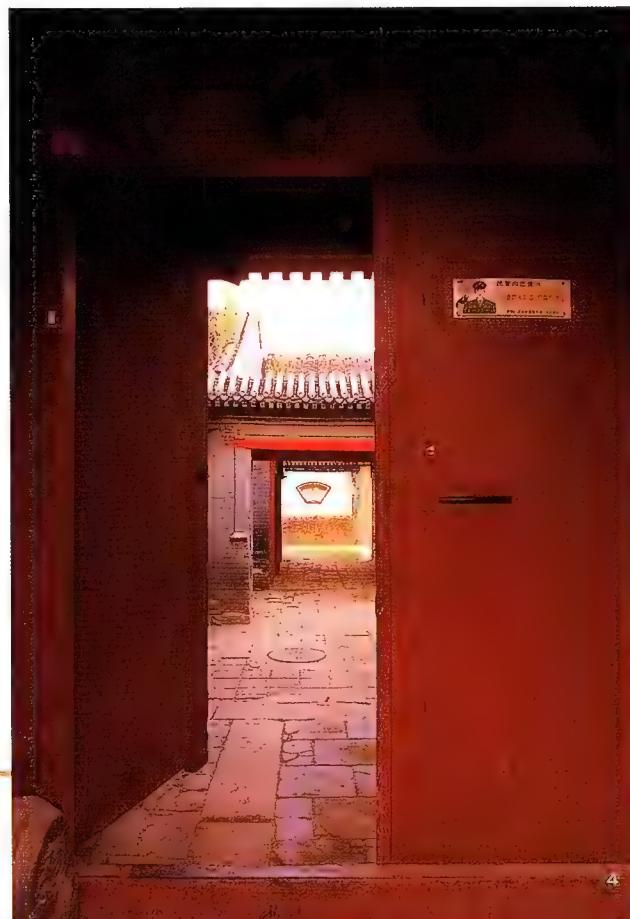
After the demise of the Qing Dynasty, Beijing's population expanded. Impoverished former aristocrats who made a living renting their property to tenants built small houses in their courtyards to attract more tenants. Thus many former lovely courtyards became disorganised messes. This, however, helped foster close relationships between residents.

"You may join a tourist programme that turns you into a one-day resident of Beijing," a pedicab driver told me. "You would see how the old folks live — singing operas or playing chess — and how the children play — skipping, dancing and flying kites. At lunchtime you join the hosts in making dumplings and eat their everyday food."

As the day ends, the enchanted tourists leave the hutongs sandwiched in grey walls and tiles. With bells ringing, the pedicabs disappear into the busy streets. ☐



1. *Siheyuan*, or quadrangle courtyard, is the traditional-style Beijing residences.
2. A carefree atmosphere permeates the hutongs.
3. These back alleys also serve as playgrounds for their young residents.
4. Many imposing mansions are found in the Shichahai neighbourhood in the West City District of Beijing.



Photos by Wu Jun,  
Zhu Jianhui  
Article by Zhu Jianhui

# Hunting for Antiques



As an old Chinese saying goes, "Grain brings only a one percent profit, cloths two percent and medicinal herbs 10 percent, while curios and antiques guarantee 100 percent." Actually, a true curio or antique can bring far more than that. Here, believe it or not, is a true story.



Wang, the proprietor of a second-hand goods shop on Beijing's Qianmen Street, was making purchases in Shandong in 1939. While passing a courtyard, he spotted a colourfully glazed porcelain cup, a piece of *doucai* porcelain from the Chenghua reign (1465-1488) of the Ming Dynasty. He bought it without argument from the owner at her asking price of one silver dollar. One day, a Mr. Zhou, proprietor of a curio shop, saw the cup and tucked his hand into Wang's sleeve to make a deal. Wang made the secret sign for "eight". "Eighty, eight hundred or eight thousand?" Zhou asked. "Eight hundred." "Then I'll get it." Wang immediately knew that he had under-priced his ware. Later, Zhou sold the cup to a Mr. Wu for 4,000 yuan. Wu then sold it in the United States for over 10,000 yuan.

If you think Wu had made a fortune, you are wrong. *Tang's Archaeological Study*, written during the mid-Ming Dynasty, says of this cup, "In front of Emperor Shenzong's throne there was a pair of

Chenghua cups, worth 10,000 yuan each." If then it had reached that price, 300 years later it would have been worth much more.

### Lulichang, a Centre of Antique Shops

Among Beijing's curio markets, Lulichang Cultural Street is definitely most representative. During the Liao Dynasty (916-1125) it was the site of Haiwang Village and in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), its kilns produced glazed tiles. When Emperor Chengzu launched a construction spree in Beijing in the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Lulichang was the source of the colourful glazed tiles used. Later, the name Lulichang came to refer to the street east of the former kilns, a one-kilometre affair split by the Haiwang Village Park built during the Republic's early years. The street that was lined with shops selling mainly books, antiques, stationery and ancient coins today sells arts and crafts, and some antiques. The 70-odd shops and stalls in the 1,100-square-metre Haiwang Village Arts and Crafts Centre deal in small jade carvings, pendants, bronzes and many other commodities.

The gigantic Beijing Curio and Antique City on the East Third Ring Road South has over 300 dealers doing business there, occupying 10,000 square metres on four floors. They offer over 1,000 products in 10 categories — ancient pottery, traditional Chinese calligraphy and paintings, jewellery and jade carvings, ivory carvings, red sandalwood products, cloisonné, gold, silver and bronze ware, second-hand furniture and carpets, old clocks and wristwatches, embroideries and garments, and other antiques. Under the same roof is an 800-square-metre professional auction house, large enough to accommodate 500 bidders. Established in 1989 on the basis of the Beijing Jinsong Folk Arts Second-Hand Market, the Beijing Curio and Antique City is the first of its kind in China as well as the largest antique and arts and crafts trading centre in Asia.

### Antique Collectors' Paradise

The Panjiayuan Second-Hand Goods Bazaar was established in 1992 from a cluster of roadside booths. The 2,600 booths in this enormous market are divided into sections selling arts and crafts, and daily necessities. Every conceivable product is available there, such as locks used by peasants in old times and embroidered shoes only three inches long. During weekends the market resembles a rural fair.

Dealers are mostly private owners, ranging from professionals to enterprise managers, curio shop retirees and even farmers. Some collectors sell there so as to improve their own collections.

Other curio shops in Beijing include the Liangmaqiao Market, where old furniture is sold. The Baoguozi market at Baiguang Road in Xuanwu District sells books, stamps and memorial badges.

One last word: before you celebrate your good luck, make sure you have a certificate to bring your "treasure" home. The law forbids objects like the *doucui* cup to be taken out of the country.

### Curio Markets in China

**Beijing Curio & Antique City:** 21 East Third Ring Road South, Chaoyang District, Beijing

**Haiwang Village Arts & Crafts Centre:** 115 Lulichang Street East, Xuanwu District, Beijing

**Panjiayuan Second-Hand Goods Bazaar:** 200 Panjiayuan Bridge West, Beijing

**Tianjin Antique Market:** Shuige Street, Nankai District, Tianjin

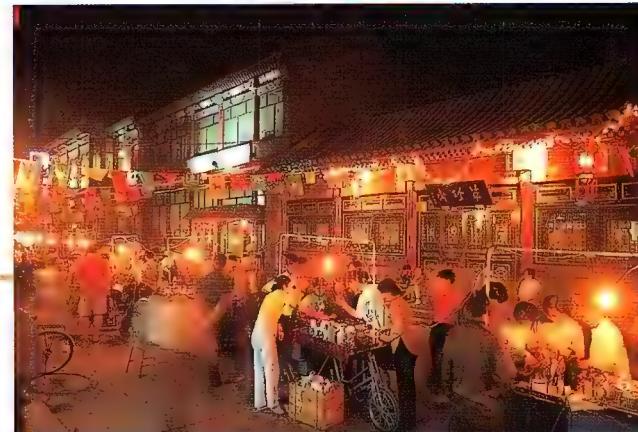
**Shanghai Curio & Antique Market at Old City God's Temple:** 26 Fangbin Road, Shanghai

**Shanghai Liuhehu Arts & Crafts Market:** 12 Liuhekou Road, Shanghai

**Shenzhen Curio & Antique City:** 13 Leyuan Road, Luoyuan District, Shenzhen

**Changchun Jifa Curio & Antique City:** 74 Qingming Street, Changchun, Jilin Province

1. A wide variety of commodities are sold at the curio markets. (by Wu Jun)
2. Lulichang Cultural Street is one of the places curio collectors like to visit. (by Wu Jun)
3. A corner of the Panjiayuan Second-Hand Goods Bazaar (by Zhu Jianhui)
4. Inside the Beijing Curio & Antique City (by Zhu Jianhui)
5. A night scene of the Lulichang Cultural Street (by Wu Jun)





Photos & article by  
Xie Guanghui



# Eating and Entertaining in Beijing



**O**n a recent visit to Beijing, a friend told me of a new advertising slogan: You're not a hero if you don't get to the Great Wall; you'll be full of regret if you don't taste Peking Duck. The first half comes from a Mao Zedong poem and the second half is a modern addition.

### Visiting the Great Wall at Night

Visiting the Great Wall has been a long-established practice in Beijing, but visiting the wall at night is a new experience. Many sections of the Great Wall in Beijing are open to tourists: Badaling in Yanqing County, Mutianyu in Huairou County, Juyongguan in Changping County and the newly-restored Simatai in Miyun County. The competition pushed Badaling Great Wall administration into its night operations. The idea came from some photographers who had taken Great Wall photos at night with multiple flashes. Now, at sunset every night, countless lights illuminate the Great Wall, making it resemble a giant dragon lying mysteriously in the valley. Not only have the night views attracted more visitors, they have also caused a boom in nearby accommodation.

### Quanjude and Panyifang: Famous Peking Duck Restaurants

There are two different Roasted Peking Duck restaurants in Beijing. One is Quanjude, founded in 1864 in the late Qing Dynasty; the other, Panyifang, is even older, being founded in 1855. Their roasting methods are different. Quanjude roasts the ducks directly over a fire in an open

brick oven, and uses date or pear tree wood so that the duck has a fruity wood fragrance. Panyifang roasts the ducks in a closed brick oven with sorghum stalks as its main fuel; when the oven temperature reaches a certain degree, the fire underneath is extinguished and the ducks put on iron grills before the door is closed. Quanjude's duck is crispy outside and Panyifang's duck is tender inside. To taste only one restaurant's duck means you're only half a gourmet.

Eating Peking duck is a unique experience. Before tasting this roast duck, you may order some appetisers such as fried duck liver, stewed duck tongue and mustard duck feet. The style of eating the roast duck is to place a thin pancake on your plate, add some sweetened wheat paste, slices of spring onion and pieces of roast duck, then roll the pancake and eat. After finishing the roast duck, a bowl of duck soup is usually served to complete the duck feast.

### Liubiju Sauce and Pickle Shop's Long Reputation

Opposite the Quanjude Peking Duck Restaurant at Qianmen is Dashilar, a 100-year-old market street in Beijing. Along this narrow, crowded street are the famous Tongrentang Herbal Medicine Shop,

1. Bars in Sanlitun attract young people at night.
2. Internet bars enjoy good business in Beijing.
3. Touring Badaling Great Wall at night has now become popular.
4. College students visiting the Great Wall at night keep warm.
5. Beijing is famous for its Peking Opera.



1. The 450-year-old Liubiju Pickle and Sauce Shop owes its fame to its strict quality control.
2. The food street at Wangfujing is favoured by both visitors and local residents.
3. Inside a Roasted Beijing Duck restaurant
4. Domestic and foreign fashion lovers like to visit Xiushui Street at Jianguomen. (by Zhu Jianhui)
5. Visiting a souvenir market

Neiliansheng Footwear Shop, and Ruifuxiang Silk and Cloth Shop. Not far from Dashilar's eastern end is Liubiju Sauce and Pickle Shop, which holds a similarly strong reputation.

At the centre of the main hall of this ancient-style wood-structured shop hangs a large signboard inscribed with three golden characters *Liu Bi Ju*. Legend says they were the calligraphy of Yan Song. Though the traitorous Ming-dynasty prime minister was notorious, his handwriting was well-known all over the country. If true, Liubiju would have been opened 450 years ago.

The reason for Liubiju's strong reputation is probably due to its strict management and quality control. It only selects high-quality materials, like the two-leaf turnips of Dongzhimen, cucumbers outside Andingmen and garlic from Changxindian. It also has a strict control over the processing. The processing of Sweet Pickled Cucumber is a good example. Cucumbers are picked only in early morning and washed clean before noon. Then they are soaked in salt water for 26 hours before marinating in soy sauce. After two full days, they are dried in the sun for a day, turned once, and finally immersed in sweet soy paste. Every day, workers stir them seven or eight times. Obviously, Liubiju would rather restrict the quantity than reduce the quality.

### Reappearance of Old Beijing Teahouse

Visiting Tianqiaole Teahouse in the southern part of the city is a good way to understand Beijing better. This old teahouse, larger than Laoyutai in the novel *Teahouse* written by Lao She, has two floors: an upper floor for VIP rooms and a lower floor with rows of tables. A pair of vertical couplets on the two pillars in front of the small stage at one end vividly comment on Beijing's old days: Wine flags and opera drums concentrate at Tianqiao; so fascinated travellers forget to go home. Attendants in long robes bow or nod as you enter and offer five old coins to use to select food. Counters sell various snacks like *ludogui* (glutinous millet cake covered with sweet bean flour), *aiwovo* (glutinous rice cake) and almond soup. Young girls selling cigarettes, melon seeds and *bingtanghulu* (candied hawthorn berries on a stick) shuttle between tables. Short traditional performances on the stage add to the atmosphere — ballads, magic tricks and wrestling....

In the changing Beijing, Tianqiaole Teahouse exists today as a museum of the old Tianqiao — a popular cultural site in the old days. ☉

*Translated by M. Q.*



# Tourist Map of Beijing



The Lanhuaping Holiday Village near the Horse Hoof Temple is located on the northern slope of the Qilian Mountains. (by Xie Guanghui)



# ZHANGYE: AN OASIS ON THE SILK ROAD

Photos by Li Wu Article by Zhang Hua

Going west of Lanzhou, the provincial capital of Gansu, through Wuwei, you are out of the oasis and into the desert. The next oasis you come across is Zhangye, an ancient cultural and historical city on a stretch of land commonly referred to as the Hexi Corridor.

Once known as Ganzhou, Zhangye has a history of over 2,000 years. As a stop just east of the convergence point of the northern, central and southern Silk Road routes at Dunhuang, Zhangye has been left with a host of historical sites and a wealth of cultural relics, including Buddhist temples and grottoes; ruins of the Heishui State; Han-dynasty sculpture bricks in underground palaces; Camel Town, capital of the ancient Beiliang State; the Great Wall; and Asia's largest army horse farm at Shandan.

In addition, you can see the unique folk customs of the Yugur people, one of China's ethnic minorities.



A Yugur woman

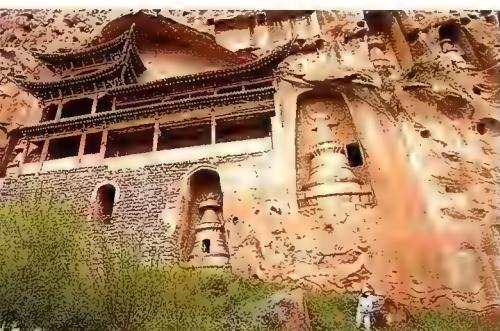
## The Artistic Yugur People

Although the ancient Horse Hoof Temple is tucked deep in

the mountains, the No. 208 and 209 trains running between Lanzhou and Zhangye make a visit there very easy. Leaving Lanzhou in the evening, you will arrive in Zhangye in the morning. A train schedule like this is a great help with tourists' travel plans. On your way to the Mati (Horse Hoof) Temple, travelling on highland

pastures, will offer you a closer look at the lifestyle and folk customs of the Yugur people.

The Yugurs have a population of over 10,000, most of them living in the Hexi Corridor and the northern foot of Qilian Mountains, with 90 percent concentrated in the Sunan Yugur Autonomous County. Their background can be traced back to the ancient Huihe people who moved to the Hexi Corridor area during the Tang Dynasty in the mid-9th century. In the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) they continued to move further east to the Qilian Mountains area. Their current name was officially decided in 1953. Interestingly, several years ago, when a Yugur song and dance troupe was on a performance



The Lianshan Buddha Pagoda in the Horse Hoof Temple

tour in Hungary, they found that the local audience could understand their songs. This prompted Hungarian linguists to come to southern Gansu to do research.

Basically a nomadic people, the Yugurs are artistic and good at sculpturing and weaving. Yugur women wear a trumpet-shaped white felt hat with red tassels on the top. Their collars, sleeves and boots are colourfully embroidered with various patterns such as flowers, birds, fish, insects and beasts. Geometrical patterns made of coral beads, sea shells and green and blue stone chips, as well as silk threads in bright colours are used as hair decorations. Men wear a long gown buttoned on the left, a waist belt of red or blue and high leather boots. Without a written language, the Yugur people have a rich legacy of oral literature and folk songs. Visiting Zhangye, you will be entertained with songs and dances of the Yugur people and learn more about their culture.

### The Horse Hoof Temple and Its Exquisite Grottoes

The grottoes at the Horse Hoof Temple were dug during the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534) but the existing outer structures, sculptures and murals date from the Tang and later dynasties. This group of grottoes consists of seven sites, such as Shengguo Temple, Puguang Temple, the Thousand-Buddha Cave, the Golden Pagoda Temple and the upper, middle and lower caves of Goddess of Mercy. The Thousand-Buddha Cave houses more than 500 cliff-side niches for Buddha statues. The Thirty-Three-Day Cave in the Puguang Temple boasts the only place of all Buddhist holy grounds in the country where meditation is supposed to

enable disciples to achieve enlightenment in all aspects instead of only one particular area.

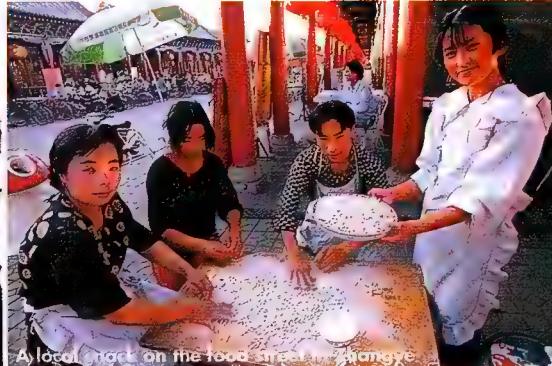
The grottoes at Golden Pagoda Temple house exquisitely carved relief apsaras that are rarely seen in other grottoes. The path leading to the Golden Pagoda Temple alone is rewarding with its unique valleys and odd rocks which gives visitors the feeling of exploring a mysterious place. The road was so difficult in the past that few people would venture on such a trip. Now with the completion of a highway, the 20-kilometre trip takes only half an hour to cover. Travellers are advised to hire a cross-country jeep in Zhangye for about 150 yuan a day to make the trip to the Golden Pagoda Temple.

The scenery around the Horse Hoof Temple is also attractive. There are the year-round snowy peaks of the Qilian Mountains, grassland and *danzia* landscape with numerous springs, waterfalls and forests. After seeing the grottoes, visitors can take a leisurely ride on horseback on the grassland or climb the Sleeping Dragon Mountain to see the palace of King Gesar. When night falls, girls of the Yugur, Tibetan and Mongolian ethnic groups entertain guests with their beautiful songs and *qingke* barley wine in the tents. Guests and hosts often sing to each other or dance by the bonfire outside the tents till midnight.

**Accommodation:** Lodging in the Horse Hoof Temple area is very convenient. At Lanhuaping Holiday Village, you can choose to stay in a tent or a double room, which costs 15 yuan per person per day. The Sleeping Dragon Mountain Villa charges 30 yuan for a standard guestroom with bathroom. This mountain villa is complete with Karaoke facilities. If you do not plan to



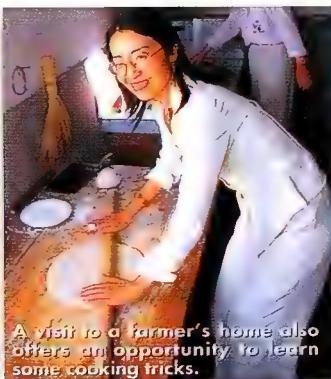
The toast sung by Tibetan and Mongolian girls is simply irresistible.



A local snack on the food street in Zhangye.



In the orchard, you can eat to your heart's content. You can't take any away.



A visit to a farmer's home also offers an opportunity to learn some cooking tricks.



The Wooden Pagoda

visit the Golden Pagoda Temple, you can return to Zhangye during the day. There are regular bus services running from the Horse Hoof Temple to Zhangye: 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. From Zhangye to the Horse Hoof Temple buses leave at 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The distance between the two places is 65 kilometres.

### The Temple Housing the Thousand-Year-Old Buddha

The Great Buddha Temple, Wooden Pagoda and Drum Tower are all within the city limits and easily accessible on foot.

The Great Buddha Temple received its name from its reclining Buddha which is 34.5 metres long, the largest in the country. Architecturally, the temple is a valuable piece of work for it was one of the very few temples built during the Western

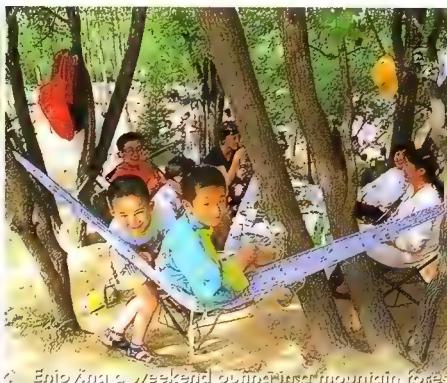
Xia Dynasty (1038-1227) still intact in the country. Grand in size, this temple could accommodate 4,000 to 5,000 pilgrims in meditation together in the 16th century. The library of the temple houses over 6,000 volumes of well-preserved sutras, gifts from Emperor Yingzong of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Written in gold and silver, the sutras are extremely valuable cultural relics.

Behind the temple stands a 33-metre-tall earthen pagoda. Each of the first and second levels of the terrace at the bottom of the pagoda has four smaller pagodas, one on each side — a most rare architectural arrangement in the country.

The Drum Tower, also known as Zhenyuan (Stabilising Border) Tower, is by far the largest drum tower still standing in the entire region of the Hexi Corridor. If you approach Zhangye



Qilian Mountains offer ideal tourist destinations in the summer.



Enjoying a weekend outing in a mountain forest.



Having a hearty meal of "mutton eaten with bare hands" in the tent of the holiday village

from the east, you can see the structure from a great distance away. The Wooden Pagoda, originally called the Longevity Temple, is now located within the compound of the First Middle School of Zhangye. After seeing the wonders of the Great Buddha Temple, it is a pleasant experience to come and appreciate this wooden structure.

### Being a Guest in a Farmer's Home

Kangning Village in Xiaoman Township has recently introduced a tourist programme of visiting farmers' houses. Nine kilometres from the city proper, Kangning Village boasts typical oasis rural scenery. There is a spectacular clear blue sky and water that gurgles as it flows from the streams into the farmland. The neat country road is flanked with tall poplar trees and farmers' houses standing in straight rows. The place has an abundance of apples and pears. To sit on the brick bed of the country house and chat with old farmers, men and women, offers you a rare and pleasant experience. Moreover, you will be treated with typical local farmers' food, including golden millet rice, boiled sweet potatoes, pancakes with scallions and stewed chicken.



Decorative objects made of stones and jade



The Great Buddha Temple

The farmers' house trip to Kangning, arranged by the local travel agency, costs 20 yuan per person and activities include a visit to the orchard, where you can pick and taste fresh fruits; a visit to the farmers' house; a meal of the local food; and time to watch a local opera performance. You are strongly advised to make a reservation for such a trip with the local travel agency once you arrive in Zhangye. Telephone: (936) 821 1684 and fax: (936) 821 3806.

*Translated by F. Huang*



### Tips for the Traveller

**Great Variety of Local Snacks:** Along the street built as a replica of an ancient town in the city, there are plenty of restaurants offering a wide range of local delicacies. A selection of warm and cold dishes, plus a bottle of beer, is sufficient for a dinner and costs only a dozen yuan.

**Accommodation in Zhangye:** The city has two two-star hotels, both offering a standard room for 180 yuan. Zhangye Hotel: Tel: (936) 821 2601; fax: (936) 821 3806. Ganzhou Hotel: Tel: (936) 841 1002; fax: (936) 841 2402. Other hotels charge much cheaper rates. Rates of the tent hotel at the Horse Hoof Temple: first-class: 60 yuan per bed; second-class: 40 yuan per bed; third-class: 20 yuan.

**Other Useful Information:** Admission fee for the Great Buddha Temple: 10 yuan. Opening hours: 7:30-18:30. Admission fee for the Horse Hoof Temple: 20 yuan.

Car rental fares for a round trip from Zhangye to the Horse Hoof Temple: car: around 300 yuan; jeep: around 150 yuan.

**Transport:** There are flights connecting major cities in China with Lanzhou, the provincial capital. The Lanzhou-Xinjiang Railway, the Gansu-Xinjiang Highway and National Highway 312 all pass by Zhangye. You can take the Liangdu Trains No. 208/209; from Lanzhou it leaves at 10:00 p.m. and arrives in Zhangye at 11:05 a.m. next day; from Zhangye the train leaves at 7:00 p.m. and pulls in at Lanzhou at 8:00 a.m. next day. The hard sleeper on this train costs 160 yuan.

#### Trip Itineraries:

**Two-day trip:** Visit the Horse Hoof Temple on the first day and spend the night at the temple area. Take a bus at 9:00 a.m. the next day back to the city, then go to Kangning Village. Have lunch in a farmer's house. In the afternoon, tour the inner-city sites and eat along the food street. Take the 7:00 p.m. train for Lanzhou.

**Three-day trip:** Follow the first day as above. On the second day, tour the Golden Pagoda Temple. Return to Zhangye in the evening. Follow the second day of a two-day trip for the third day.

**Reminders:** 1. To go further west, take the Jiugang Train at 7:07 a.m. and arrive at Jiayuguan City at 11:40 a.m. Or continue on further west to Liuyuan where you change to a bus for Dunhuang.

2. The area is very dry and you should bring along appropriate moisturiser. There is a big difference between day and night temperatures and so even on a summer day you should take a windbreaker or a thin pullover.



Zhangye produces many of North China's fruits





# Unique Legacy of Rituals in the Qing Imperial Court

Photos by Wang Ruishen Article by Yao Gang

In the annual Shenyang International Folkways Festival held in August or September, grand performances are given in the Imperial Palace of Shenyang to demonstrate the unique imperial ceremonial rituals of the Qing Dynasty in its heyday. At other times of the year, the same performances, on a smaller scale, are staged every Saturday afternoon.





### Celebrating Completion of Emperor Taizu's Memoirs

**Previous page:**  
**The emperor and his empress and imperial concubines step down from their seats to see the princess and her Mongolian groom off.** (by Cui Boqian)  
**Lower left: A pillar decorated with gold-plated coiling dragon in front of the Dazheng Hall** (by Chan Yat Nin)

1. The grand ceremony recalls the high days of the Qing empire. (by Cui Boqian)
2. Inside a chamber of the Imperial Palace (by Yao Gang)
3. The dress of palace maids
4. Imperial throne in the Dazheng Hall

The performance usually begins with a reproduction of a grand ceremony held in the Shenyang Imperial Palace in 1636 (before the official establishment of the Qing Dynasty). Huangtaiji, Emperor Taizong of the Qing Dynasty at that time, had instructed the Academy of History to compose a book to record and eulogise Nurhachi's meritorious services in founding the Qing Dynasty. When the book, *Memoir of Nurhachi*, was completed, a grand ceremony was held in the open space between the Dazheng Hall and Shiwang (Ten-King) Pavilions in the palace's east side.

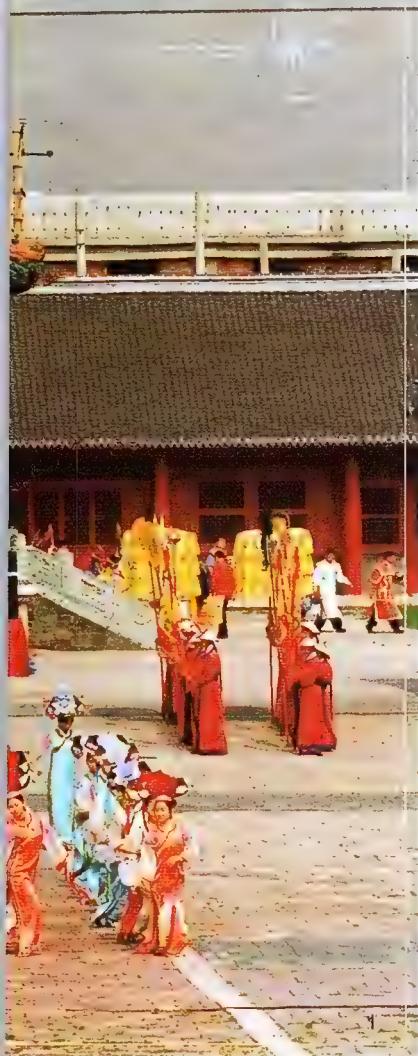
As we took our seats in the visitors' stand, the master of ceremonies walked up to



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the rostrum to announce the start of the ceremony. Immediately, battle drums thundered and bugles sounded. Amidst the purple smoke from incense sticks in various large and small incense burners, numerous military and civil officials in Qing court attire started walking towards the Dazheng Hall. At the same time, some 100 warriors from the Eight Banners (Qing troops who were divided into eight columns under banners of different colours) holding their flags of command, danced before the emperor to show their loyalty.

This imperial sight, the simple dance and the stirring music immediately aroused the tourists to produce loud applause now and then. A group of European and American tourists could not resist dancing along with the beat of the music. Other figures of that time period present included: the official reading the imperial decree, princes, the emperor's bodyguards, flag and banner holders, gunners, musicians, bugle and trumpet blowers, *suona* (a small trumpet-like wind instrument) blowers and imperial guards. The performance strictly



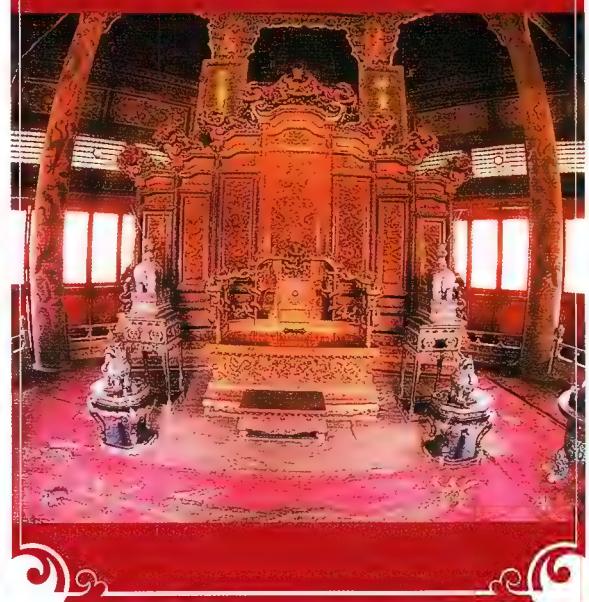
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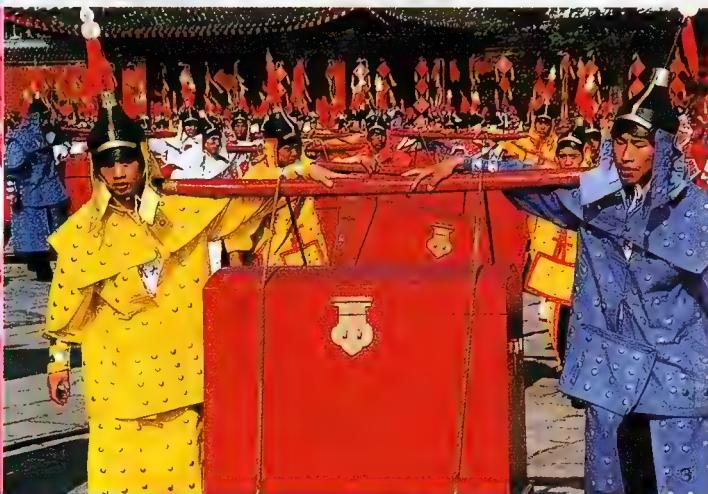
## The Imperial Palace in Shenyang

The Qing empire founded by the Manchus left two palace complexes — one in Beijing called the Forbidden City and the other in Shenyang. The latter was built in the early days of the empire.

The construction of the Shenyang Imperial Palace was started by Nurhachi, Emperor Taizu, and finished by Huangtaiji, Emperor Taizong. Its present form was completed in the Qianlong reign, around 100 years later. After the Qing capital was moved from Shenyang to Beijing, the Shenyang palace became the "Palace in the Alternate Capital". Built by the Manchus, the palace is unique in layout, and gives a more vivid impression of the Manchu military and policy systems that they took from the Ming Dynasty than the Beijing palace. It represents a perfect combination of the architectural styles of the Han, Manchu and Mongolian peoples.

The first structures completed in the palace were the Dazheng Hall and Shiwang (Ten-King) Pavilions. A unique group of pavilion-like structures, they are most characteristic of Manchu architecture. Dazheng Hall, an octagonal pavilion with pointed flying double eaves, is where important ceremonies were held, such as the enthronement of Emperor Shunzhi. The golden pillars decorated with spiraling dragons in front, and the meticulously carved sculptures inside both display imperial grandeur. In front and at the





portrayed the attire, actions and expressions of each of the over 600 Qing court characters.

From our guide, we learned about the Qing court attire. For instance, the ranks of the princes and dukes

could be determined by the number of pearls on their hats and flaps of their costumes, as well as by the different pearls or agate decorated on their gold-inlaid jade belts. During Emperor Taizong's time, peacock plumes with eye-shaped patterns were used to honour officials who had made great contributions.

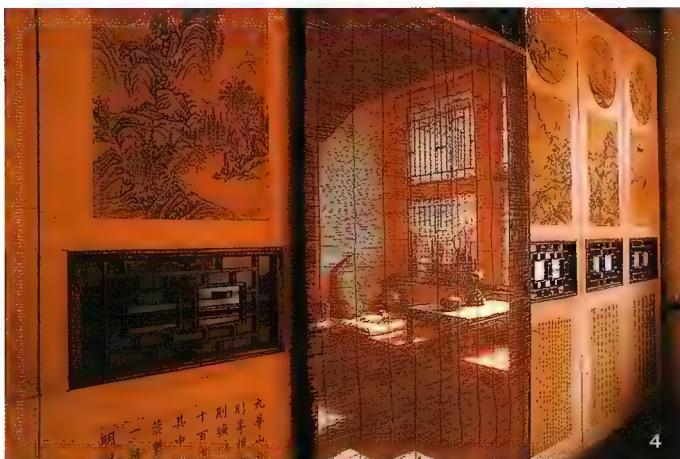
### Wedding Ceremony of a Princess

In the Qing Dynasty, in order to strengthen the political alliance between the Manchus and the Mongolians, quite a few Qing princesses were married to Mongolian

1. The emperor's Mongolian son-in-law, who returns to the grassland with Princess Gulun
2. A little girl having her picture taken in the costume of a palace maid (by Yao Gang)
3. Dowry for Princess Gulun
4. The emperor's bedroom (by Chan Yat Nin)
5. Princess Gulun
6. An indoor scene of Wensuo Pavilion (by Chan Yat Nin)

princes or dukes. "Wedding Ceremony of a Princess" reproduces the grand ceremony of Emperor Taizong marrying his third daughter Princess Gulun to Taiji Qitate, king of the Horqin tribe, in 1638. The ceremony was held in the palace when Qitate came to fetch the princess.

Unlike the first performance, which featured solemnity, the wedding



ceremony expressed the emotions of the royal family members and the unique wedding rituals, creating a noble, harmonious and lively atmosphere. There were splendid portrayals of the ceremony's figures, all attired in brightly coloured costumes. The Manchu side included the emperor and empress, the princess and her own palace maids, and wives of the Eight Banners' princes, as well as maids waiting on these noble ladies. The Mongolian side included the bridegroom as well as male and female servants accompanying him. The performers totalled 300.

As the performance went on, the audience fell silent and attentive, looking carefully at every figure. The Qing Dynasty also had a ranking system for the court ladies, similar to the men's. The ranks of the wives of Qinwang (the emperor's brothers) and Beile (the emperor's sons) were differentiated by the number of pearls on the gold ring on top of their hats, while the empress, imperial concubines and other noble ladies waiting on the emperor wore caps decorated respectively with diamonds, white crystals and platinum. Ranks of other palace maids can be seen by the quality and colour of their clothing materials, and the quality of their pendants.

Originally Nurhachi was unwilling to marry his daughters to Mongolians because the latter led a hard nomadic life and many Manchu princesses married there had died young. Yet, in the interests of the Qing imperial

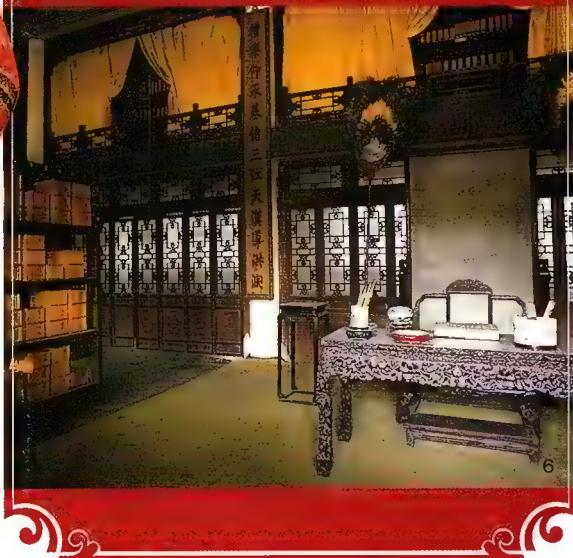


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sides of Dazheng Hall stand 10 square pavilions, called Shiwang (Ten King) Pavilions or Baqi (Eight-Banner) Pavilions, where the leaders of the Eight Banners and the princes commanding the troops paid tribute to and conferred with the emperor. These tent-palace buildings, in which the emperor and his ministers handled state affairs together, are unique in Chinese history and reflect the characteristics of the Manchu's Eight Banner system.

Chongzheng Hall along the central route is commonly known as Jinluandian (Emperor's Hall). It was there that the emperor accepted homage every day. For instance, in this hall Emperor Taizong proclaimed the change of state name from Great Jin to Great Qing. The east and west side houses offer insight into the later Qing emperors' handling of state affairs and family life during their stay in the "alternate capital" after they had entered Beijing. The Phoenix Tower behind the hall, where Emperor Taizong often relaxed and held banquets, was once the highest structure in Shenyang. The tower gate once served as the only road leading to the rear court where the empress and four imperial concubines lived. At the southeast corner of the rear court stands a Suolun Pole, a unique object used by the Manchus in sacrifices to Heaven.

Later generations of Qing emperors added structures, the most representative ones being the Wenshuo Pavilion and the Theatre. One of the four major pavilions in the palace, Wenshuo Pavilion was specially built to store the *Complete Works of Chinese*





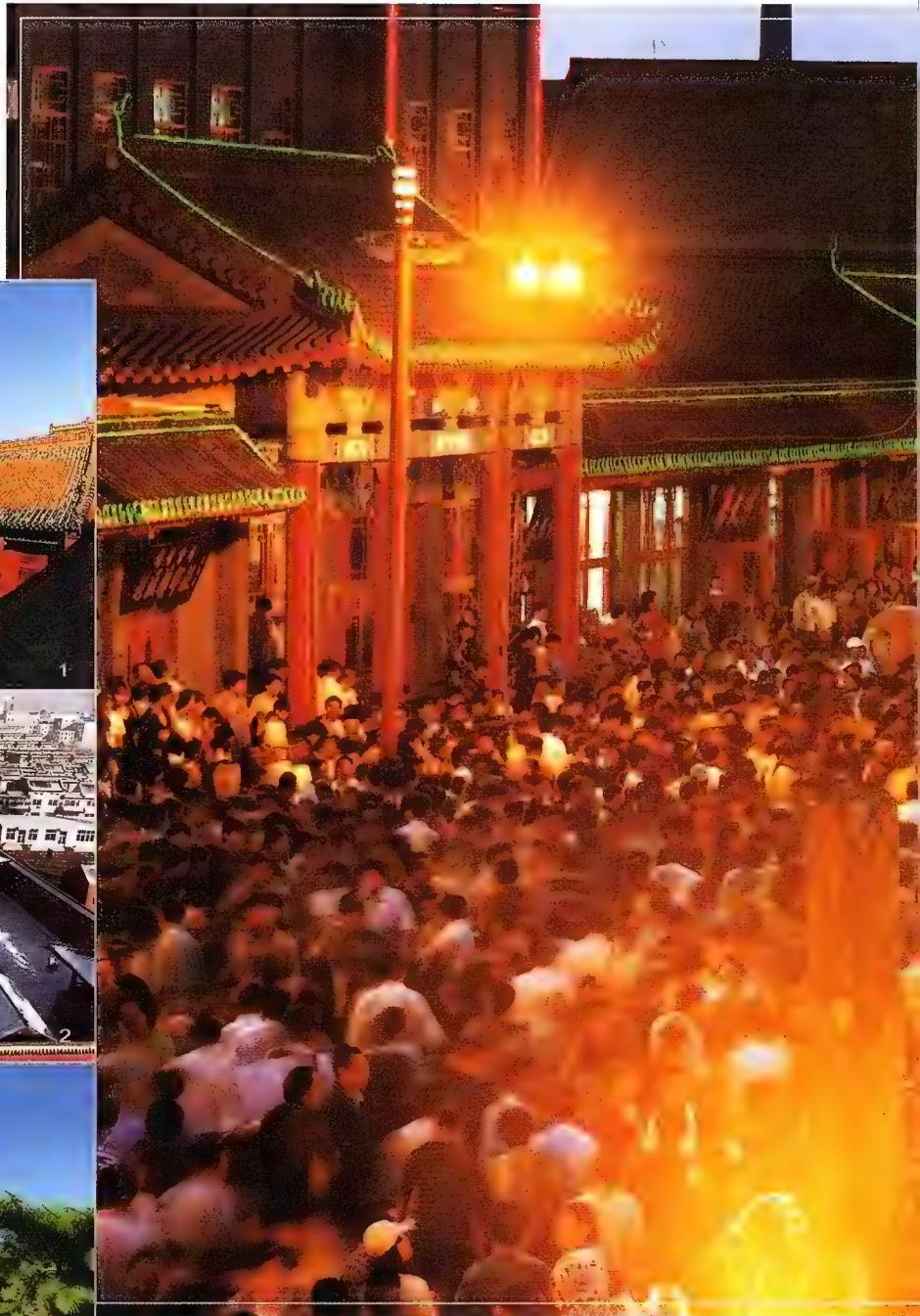
1. The multi-coloured roofs of the Imperial Palace in Shenyang

2. Dazheng Hall and Shiwang Pavilions — unique tent-palace structures

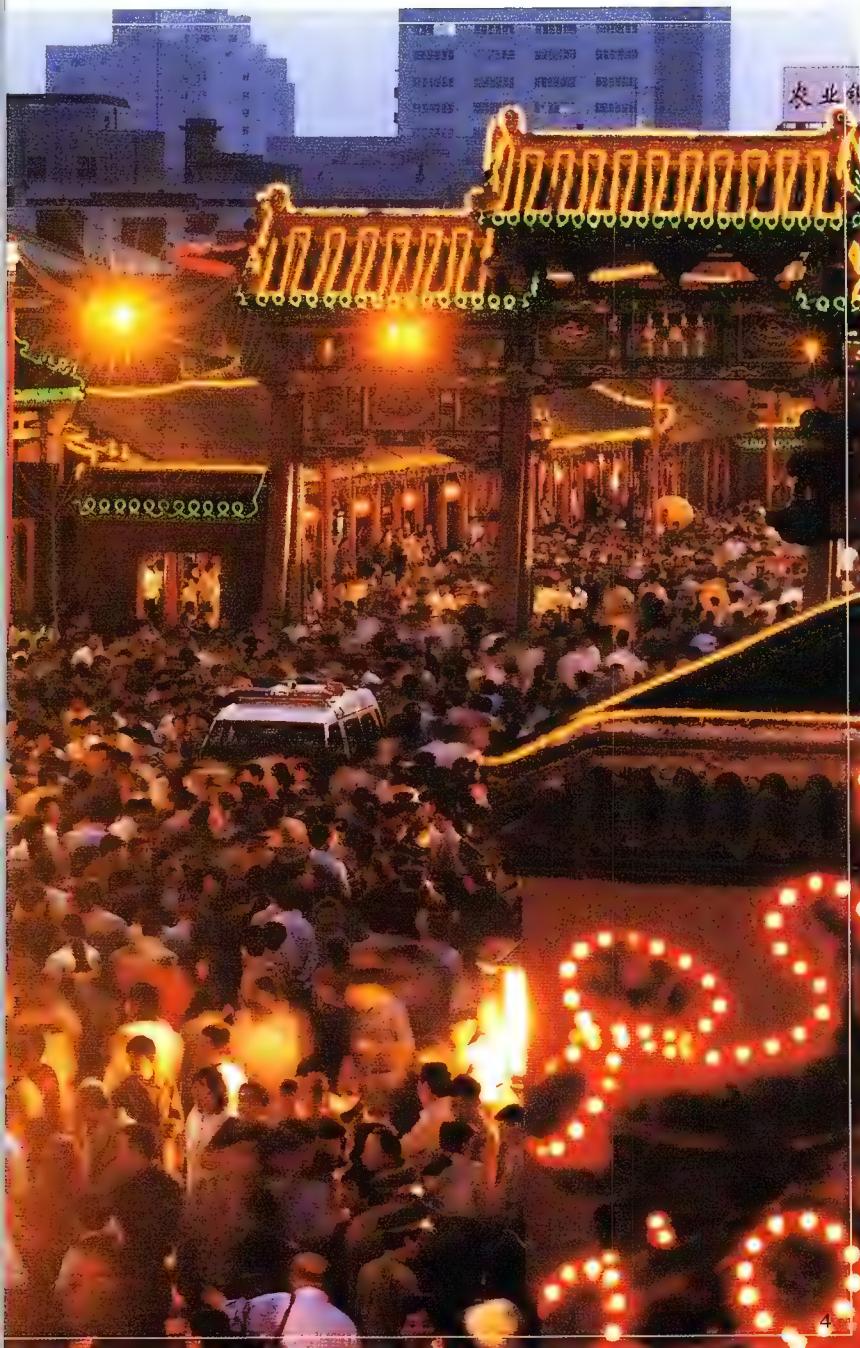
3. Phoenix Tower in the Imperial Palace — the most famous architecture in ancient Shenyang (by Liu Yadong)

4. Night view of the Imperial Road at the Imperial Palace (by Cui Boqian)

5. Stone carvings in the Imperial Palace (by Chan Yat Nin)



court, he needed to marry off a princess to Qitate. The precious ancient bow given to the princess by the emperor shows the extremely high hopes he placed on the princess in establishing friendly relationships with the Mongolians. At the grand wedding ceremony, the princess was given a large number of male and female servants, huge amounts of gold, silver, beautiful silk and finely made Jingdezhen chinaware, as well as large cabinets with gold-inlaid dragon patterns. All this showed, on the one hand, the affluence of the imperial family and, on the other, the royal family's tender love for the young princess. Princess Gulun, in her teens, was the embodiment of contradictory emotions. She was happy and shy to be a newly wed, but at the same time reluctant to leave her parents. In the end, as the young princess tearfully bade farewell to her sad parents, some tourists were sobbing as well.



### Inspection Tour by Emperor Taizong

Next came a vivid performance depicting one of Emperor Taizong's inspection tours made in 1638. Upon the completion of the construction of the Baosheng Temple in the capital, the emperor paid a visit to it. Emperor Taizong's tour with an imperial procession of ceremonies composed of 300 guards of honour was demonstrated according to historical records of the event.

Amidst the rumbling of gun salutes and with the guards of honour crowding around, Emperor Taizong took a sedan out of the palace's Daqing Gate. They walked around for some distance. Then the emperor stepped down from his sedan to accept salutations from representatives of the local gentry and common people. Everyone seemed to feel as if being really living in the old Shengjing of the Qing empire.

*Classics*, a gigantic series of books compiled during Emperor Qianlong's reign. The use of black bricks and black-glazed tiles was meant to prevent fire, since in the "theory of five elements", black represents water. Other auxiliary buildings include the Banxi (makeup) Room, Jiayin Hall, and the Yangxi and Juijian (Nine-Room) halls, which, with flanged roofs, display certain features of southern Chinese architecture.

Some structures are original Manchu style. For instance, the Qingning Palace is a hall of five connected rooms. Inside are heated brick beds built on three sides, their chimney extending out to the backyard, where it is linked with the cooking stove on which meat sacrifices to heaven were prepared. Obviously, the design served multiple purposes — living, cooking, banqueting, and holding sacrificial ceremonies — a unique feature of the Manchu life style.

The most unique characteristic of the Imperial Palace in Shenyang is "all palaces are higher than halls", in sharp contrast to the Beijing's Forbidden City. Qingning Palace, for example, is situated on a mound four metres high, making it higher than the Chongzheng Hall where the emperor handled state affairs. This resulted from tradition, as the Manchus formerly lived in the mountains and preferred their living quarters in higher places. Unlike the Beijing palace, the roofs in the Shenyang Imperial Palace are not totally yellow — the tiles are glazed with green edges, and the ridges are decorated with tiles glazed in various colours — as befitted the Manchus' love of bright colours.



CULTURE

# Three Qing Tombs in Northeast China

Photos by Liu Yadong Article by Shan Xiaogang

Among the mausoleums of early Qing-dynasty emperors distributed in the Northeast, these three are best known. The Fuling and Zhaoling mausoleums in Shenyang and the Yongling Mausoleum in Xinbin County display the architectural tradition of Northeast China and the ethnic characteristics of the Manchus. As well, their turret-like structures amidst beautiful forests produce an enchanting atmosphere.

## Fuling — Auspicious Land of Future Emperors

Fuling, also called the East Mausoleum, is located in the east suburbs of Shenyang. It comprises the tombs for Nurhachi, the first emperor of the Qing Dynasty, or Emperor Taizu, and his wife Yehenala. Fuling's most famous feature is the steep 108-step staircase leading up to the tombs. In China, only one other such staircase exists on Mount Wutai in Shanxi Province. This land of high geomantic quality on Xinglong Ridge, close to Tianzhu Mountain in the north and Huihe River in the south, was intended to ensure every generation of the Qing imperial family produced an emperor.

## Zhaoling — a Land Related to Crows

Also called North Mausoleum, Zhaoling contains the tombs of Huangtaiji, the Qing Dynasty's second emperor, or Emperor Taizong, and his empress Borjigit. Of the three, Zhaoling is the best preserved and largest. Unlike Fuling, it was built on flat land and its grave mounds were piled up by manpower. It is said that the site was selected by Huangtaiji himself when a flock of crows landed there because crows had reportedly saved his life. Along the paved path outside the Fangcheng (Square City), the main part of the mausoleum, there are eight gigantic pine trees, representing eight principal court officials. Inside and outside the Square City, 1,625 and 1,975 pine trees were planted respectively, symbolizing the 3,600 imperial guards who ensured the imperial court's safety. Among the pines are 12 paired stone animals: lions, unicorns, auspicious deer, camels, horses and elephants, symbolising soldiers on guard.

## Yongling — Small but Unique

Originally called Xingjingling, Yongling is located south of Qiyun Mountain in Xinbin County. In the mausoleum are tombs for Nurhachi's great-great grandfather, great grandfather, grandfather, father and uncles. Of the three Qing imperial mausoleums in the Northeast, Yongling is the smallest but the most uniquely characteristic. It is completely surrounded by high walls and inside its red main gate stand four gigantic stone monuments, over which are carved epigraphs eulogising the ancestors' merits. At the centre of the Fangcheng is a sacrificial hall with walls decorated with brightly glazed dragons. The tombs, set in a curve, are said to contain either bones of the deceased or the clothes they once wore.





## The Founding of the Qing Empire

Formerly known as Nuchens, the Manchu people had long lived along the Songhua and Heilong rivers. Nurhaci Aisin Gioro was a descendant of Mengge Tiemur, a Nuchen clan chieftain, six generations removed. Nurhaci served under the Ming general Li Chengliang stationed in the Northeast. In the chaos of the 16th century, Nurhaci made full use of his outstanding military talent and brought most of Jianzhou under his control. In the process of uniting the various Nuchen branches, he established the Eight Banners (Eight Columns of crack troops under banners of different colours). Relying on these brave and battle-tempered troops, he finally united all the Nuchen tribes to establish the Kingdom of Great Jin. In 1618, the Eight Banner troops were locked in a large-scale war with the Ming troops. In 1625, the kingdom moved its capital to Shenyang. When attacking Ningyuan (Xingcheng today) in 1626, Nurhaci was defeated and wounded by Ming general Yuan Chonghuan. He died in August the same year.



Nurhaci



Huangtaiji

Nurhaci was succeeded by Huangtaiji, his eighth son. Courageous and militarily wise, Huangtaiji smoothly incorporated surrendered Ming generals and the Ming civil service system into the new dynasty. In 1636, Huangtaiji proclaimed himself emperor in Shenyang.

### Tips for the Traveller

**Shenyang Imperial Palace admission:** 35 yuan.

**Opening Hours:** 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (In winter and summer, hours may vary by half an hour.)

Court rituals performance: 15 yuan; Saturday 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Zhaoling: 12 Taishan Road, north of downtown Shenyang; take a public bus or trolley bus.

Fuling: 18 Dongling East Street, 11 kilometres northeast of downtown Shenyang; take buses No. 218, 234 or 330.

Yongling: 21 kilometres west of Xinbin county seat; take a long-distance bus from Shenyang.

1. A bird's-eye view of Fuling Mausoleum (by Liu Yadong)
2. The 108-step staircase at Fuling (by Liang Weijie)
3. The stone archway and gate of Fuling Mausoleum (by Li Weijia)
4. Carved stone sacrificial animals at Zhaoling Mausoleum (by Chan Yat Nin)
5. Zhaoling, a grand mausoleum in the urban area (by Liu Yadong)



NOVELTIES

# Unique Wonders in Liaoning Province

Photos & article by Jin Guang

## Jinshitan

### 700 Million-Year-Old Views

The Jinshitan National Tourism Area, 58 kilometres from downtown Dalian, includes a seven-kilometre-long coastal area known as the "park of natural sculptures". Along the seashore, precipitous cliffs and reefs shoot up from the ground. Sudden crustal movement and erosion by sea water 600-700 million years ago gave rise to numerous spectacularly shaped rocks and caves. Many are wonderful scenes with names to match their unique features, such as "Tortoise Lifting Its Head to the Sky", "Dinosaur Drinking Up the Sea", "Turtle Probing Its Way", and "Parrot Paying Homage to the Sea". Brightly coloured cracked sedimentary cliffs are rarely seen elsewhere in the world. Generally speaking, the whole

area represents a geography museum on the northern Chinese coast.

Jinshitan also boasts a superb flat bathing beach, a world-class golf course, an international yacht club, a hunting ground and a holiday hotel in the European architectural style. Tourists can also take a boat to nearby islands to fish, or walk to fishing villages for a taste of the simple life in a fisherman's home.

*Tips: To go to Jinshitan, first take a train or bus to Jinzhou, then a minibus. There is no fee for visiting the seashore reefs.*



The multi-coloured cliff at Jinshitan, Dalian

# Mysterious Slope

Less Effort Going Up



Going up the mysterious slope near Shenyang

At the west foot of Maoshan Hill, 30 kilometres north of Shenyang, there is an unusual slope that has won fame far and wide. The slope lies 80 metres by 15 metres, upwards from east to west. The slope's peculiarity was discovered by chance by two local traffic policemen. In April 1990, after they had stopped their jeep there for a rest, they re-entered the jeep. But when they lifted the hand break and before they started the engine, the jeep began to slide up the slope all by itself. Surprised, they tried again and the same thing occurred. Hence, the fame of the slope spread.

In curiosity, people from all over the country and in all types of vehicles have come to see for themselves. Recently, a project was launched to allow people the personal experience of the slope's peculiarity on a bike or on foot. All kinds of motor vehicles — big and small, heavy and light, domestic and foreign, just passing by or intentionally coming — line up below the slope. After turning the engine off, each one moves slowly but automatically up the slope. The experience on a bike is more dramatic as you can lift your feet off the pedals and the bike goes up the slope at accelerating speed. When going down the slope, however, you have to pedal hard or the bike will retreat upwards. On foot going up the slope, you feel the walk is effortless, as if there is some sort of force pulling you up. It is said you feel better going backwards up the slope.

Different explanations have been offered to explain the mystery of the slope — a magnetic field, dislocation of gravity, visual error — but so far none has been verified. The slope area has now been developed into a tourist resort. Apart from this strange phenomenon, there are other things of a queer nature, such as the Sounding Hill and Humming Hilltop.

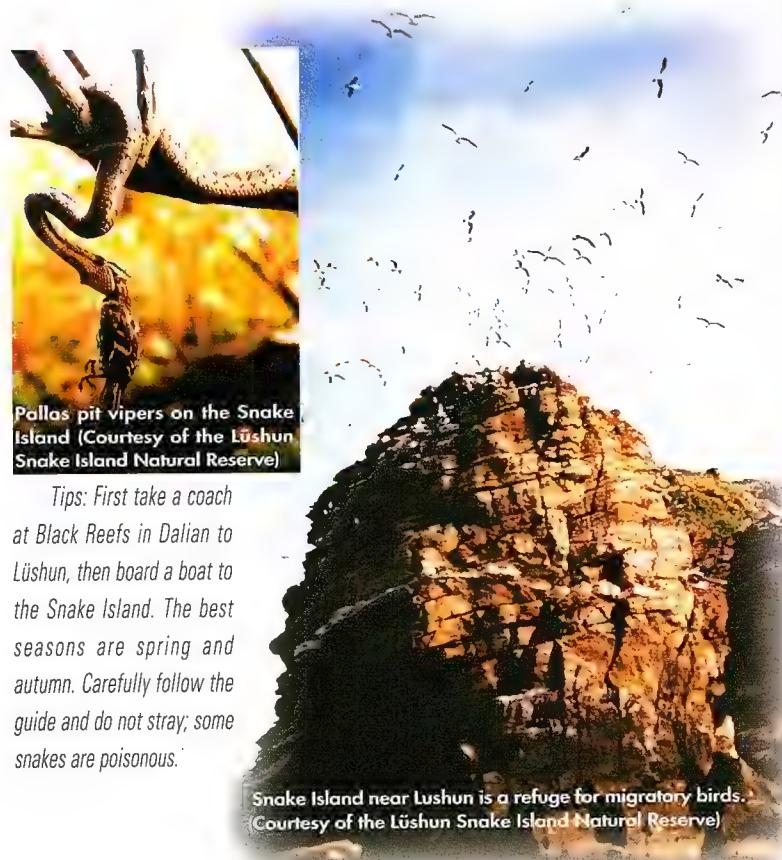
*Tips: To get to the mysterious slope from Shenyang, take either minibus No. 331 or bus No. 330 at Maluwan. The admission ticket costs 30 yuan.*

# Snake Island

13,000 Pallas Pit Vipers

Visitors can board a boat at Lüshun to go to the Snake Island in the Bohai Sea. The 1.2-square-kilometre island is so named because about 13,000 Pallas pit vipers live and roam around the groves, stone pits, ridges and gullies. In spring and autumn every year, large numbers of migratory birds stop on the island to rest on their way north or south, thus providing plentiful food for the snakes. Moreover, the mild climate, appropriate precipitation, rugged cliff rocks and thick vegetation on the island together provide an ideal environment for the Pallas pit vipers.

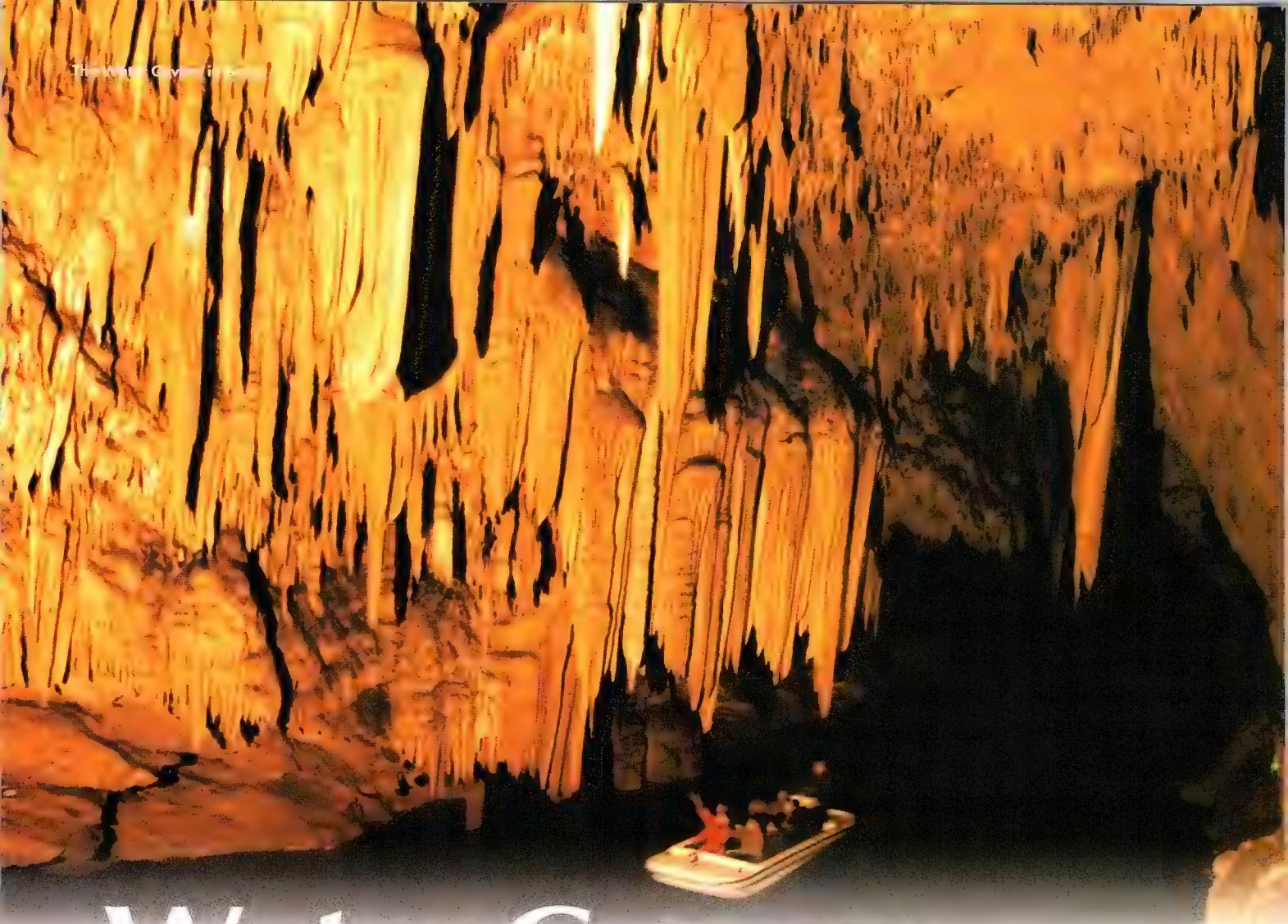
Touring the Snake Island, tourists can observe the snakes' superb skills in catching birds, ranging from small ones such as willow warblers to larger ones such as quails. No matter big or small, the snakes always swallow them whole, leaving behind just a few feathers.



Pallas pit vipers on the Snake Island (Courtesy of the Lüshun Snake Island Natural Reserve)

*Tips: First take a coach at Black Reefs in Dalian to Lüshun, then board a boat to the Snake Island. The best seasons are spring and autumn. Carefully follow the guide and do not stray; some snakes are poisonous.*

Snake Island near Lushun is a refuge for migratory birds. (Courtesy of the Lüshun Snake Island Natural Reserve)



## Water Cavern

### Year-round Constant Temperature

The unique Water Cavern of Benxi has an underground river hidden in a long, winding cave. Tourists can take boats along the extremely clear underground river and see numerous stalactites of various shapes and sizes overhead.

The cavern temperature remains at 12°C all year round, so visitors need jackets even in summer.

The cavern has a water and a dry section. Visitors usually start with the dry section, which is shaped like a reclining ox. There, they can visit the Paleontological Palace whose exhibits are displayed by modern means. Going around a stone wall leads to the water area, which resembles a gigantic hall. Motor boats make tours



Touring Benxi's Water Cavern by boat

into the depth of the cavern against the surging clear current. People are often surprised to find in the dry and cold Northeast China such a huge cave brimming with more water than karst caves in water-logged South China. Furong (Lotus) Gorge in the cavern offers two scenes: Erxian (Twin Celestials) Palace and Moon Palace, both characterised with well-developed, vivid stalagmites and stone pillars. In the next section, Shuangjian (Double Swords) Gorge, sword-like stalactites hang down almost touching the water. The third section, the Yuhuang (Jade Emperor) Palace is full of spiky stalagmites. The last section, Beiji (North Pole) Palace, has quite a number of huge grayish white "stone curtains" resembling snow-covered mountains, giving visitors a chilly feeling.

*Tips: The Water Cavern is 35 kilometres from downtown Benxi. Take a train or bus from Shenyang to Benxi from where buses and taxis go to the cavern. The cavern admission ticket is 50 yuan and includes free use of a padded jacket. The boat trip takes about 40 minutes. The Water Cavern Hotel provides lodging; its standard room rate is 258 yuan. You can also visit the cave museum and other tourist wonders nearby, and float along the Taizi (Prince) River.*

# Bijia Hill

## Path Lost in the Rising Tide

In the Liaodong Gulf near Tianqiao Town, 35 kilometres south of Jinzhou, there is a small island called Bijia (Pen Rack) Hill. It is linked with the coast by a natural passage, which is called Tianqiao or Heavenly Bridge. The island has some pavilions, built mainly of granite, with superbly-crafted vivid bas-reliefs.

The fantastic, natural pebble path to the island, formed by the washing of the tides over time, appears and disappears along with the rising and ebbing of the tide. At low tide, the path emerges like a coiled dragon allowing visitors to walk to the island and back. When the tide rises, the sea encroaches from both sides, until it is totally submerged. Then, the only way to Bijia Hill is by boat.

There are small bathing places along the shore and on the island. At the scenic area entrance is the sculpture



Jinzhou Bijia Hill becomes famous because of its natural passage that appears and disappears with the tide.

which tells the story of fairies gathering earth to build the path. Nearby is the island called Lesser Bijia Hill.

*Tips: Take a train to Jinzhou and change to a minibus there. The admission ticket is 20 yuan; ferry to the island is 5 yuan; motorboat to the island is 7 yuan. Jinzhou Bijia Hill Training Centre offers standard rooms at 300 yuan. At Wenhua Hotel the daily bed rate is 20-30 yuan.*

# Geothermal Oddity

## Inverted Summer and Winter

In the Chuanying Gully by Shajianzi Village in the mountainous region of eastern Huanren County, there is an abnormal geothermal belt. Along this 15-kilometre-long and 30-metre-wide belt, winter temperatures are high and summer temperatures are low. The surface temperature there can drop to -18°C in summer with ice covering the area; in winter it can be 18°C with lovely green grass all around.

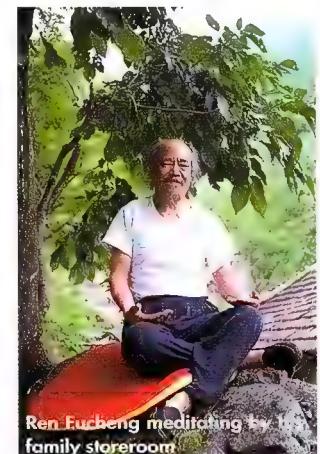
This phenomenon is most conspicuous on the hillside behind the house of Ren Fucheng in the Shajianzi Village. One summer over 90 years ago, Ren Fucheng's father discovered biting cold air gushing out from the rock crevices. Though somewhat surprised, he dug a storeroom into the cliff and linked it up with the house. Immediately upon entering Ren's house visitors are embraced by the cold air; the storeroom is as chilling as a huge icehouse.

According to Mr. Ren, the storeroom becomes coldest

when the outside temperature reaches its warmest in summer. At that time fresh eggs become frozen and crack, and water turns into ice blocks. The temperature in the rock crevices drops as low as -15°C in summer, and rainwater flowing down the hillside turns into ice curtains or beads. Elderly villagers recalled that one summer evening in 1946 some Kuomintang officers tied their horses to trees on the hillside and returned the next morning to find them all frozen stiff. In the summer of 1985, some geologists, who came to explore this strange land, dug several feet into the ground, but they only found thick layers of ice. In mid-winter, in Ren's storeroom, the temperature rises to 4°C; all the ice on the hill vanishes and the area around it supports the luxuriant growth of vegetables.

The extraordinary temperatures have attracted many *qigong* fans, and the Rens' simple house has become a place where some Chinese and foreign visitors with chronic diseases will pay to sit and practise *qigong*. Now Mr. Ren, who no longer cuts his hair or beard, wears simple clothes and walks around barefooted like a Taoist immortal.

*Tips: Take a long-distance bus from Shenyang, or Tonghua, or Dandong to the seat of Huanren County, then change to the scheduled bus to Wulidui and get off at the Shajianzi Village stop.*



Ren Fucheng meditating by his family storeroom



The stone storeroom of the Ren family in Shajianzi Village

# Tanggangzi Spa

Where Emperors Once Bathed

The most famous hot springs in Liaoning Province are found in Tanggangzi in Anshan. Discovered in the early Tang Dynasty (618-907), the spa there hosted several emperors, including the first Tang Emperor, Li Shimin, and the Jin-dynasty Emperor Taizong. The room in which Puyi, the last Qing emperor, bathed is still well preserved. The Tanggangzi Spa Hospital of Physiotherapy, which offers treatment mainly as hot spring bathing and hot mineral mud application, has now become one of the four largest recuperation centres in China.

The water temperature in the Tanggangzi Spa can reach 72°C and contains over 20 mineral elements. Bathing with the water can make the hair shiny and smooth, and the skin moist. It can also remove stagnation and improve the blood circulation. The fine-sand, or natural mineral mud, also offers a satisfying therapeutic effect. The hot spring bathing and mineral mud application, coupled with massage, acupuncture, wax application therapies and electrotherapy, have proved to be markedly effective in the treatment of rheumatic arthritis, rheumatoid diseases, skin diseases



Curing diseases with hot mineral mud  
at the Tanggangzi Spa Sandatorium

and the sequelae of traumatic injuries. But, visitors must be aware of the temperature of the water and the mud treatment time to avoid getting burns.

*Tips: Take bus No. 113 at Anshan Railway Station on a 40-kilometre ride from Anshan to the spa. Bathing in the Longgong (Dragon Palace) Pool costs 30 yuan, while mud treatment costs 50 yuan.*



Longgong pool at the Tanggangzi Spa

## Meteorite Hill

Largest Aerolite Found on Earth

Another wonder in Shenyang is the Meteorite Hill, 30 kilometres southeast of the city centre. It is in fact the largest aerolite meteorite ever found on Earth. Found in 1983, it is called locally the "Slippery Stone Terrace" because its surfaces are extremely smooth. With a mass of 300,000 cubic metres and a weight of two million tons, the meteorite is believed to have formed 4.5 billion years ago and dropped 1.9 billion years ago, long before human beings existed.

Visitors can either view this monstrous chunk of aerolite from outside or enter into its core through a tunnel. Usually, any matter entering the Earth's atmosphere from outer space would break up into many small pieces on collisions with other celestial bodies or burn in the high temperatures produced by friction in the atmosphere. Therefore, a gigantic solid piece of aerolite such as this one is indeed rare.

*Tips: The only way to Meteorite Hill is by taxi; admission costs three yuan.*



The Meteorite Hill near Shenyang is the largest aerolite ever found on Earth.

# Red Sea Beach

## The Nature Reserve in Panjin

By the estuary of Shuangtaizi River southwest of Panjin, there is a nature reserve comprising mainly thousand hectares of reeds. In the reed groves and marshland live more than 230 species of birds, the most famous of which being red-crowned cranes and black-beaked gulls. Tourists going around the reed groves can watch the activities of the storks, cranes and gulls as well as other rare species of birds. However, the most spectacular view of the reserve is the 26-kilometre-long and one-kilometre-wide red beach formed by a cover of *Suaeda glauca* plants near the river estuary outside of the sea embankment.

From mid-summer to mid-autumn, standing on the sea embankment, visitors can have a panoramic view of the red beach exposed at ebb-tide, as well as the winding

gullies and patches of green or yellow reeds. A closer look reveals that the tender *Suaeda glauca* seems to be transparent. Countless crabs roam the wet muddy land, scurrying

in and out of holes, while large numbers of sea birds walking leisurely in shallow water, looking for food. In the morning sun, the birds present a truly graceful view.

*Tips:* There are long-distance buses from Shenyang to Panjin. In Panjin, you must hire a taxi to the bird and red beach viewing platform. There is villa-like lodgings on the beach, but they are damp. The Panjin International Hotel in the city offers the best accommodation.



Red beach by the Shuangtaizi River estuary near Panjin City

# Big Buddha in Anshan

## Many Mysteries Still Unsolved

The Qianshan Big Buddha is an image of a sitting Buddha on a cliff, possibly resulting from ancient glacial movements. This 70-metre-high image has clearly discernable eyes, nose, mouth, ears and four limbs. He sits cross-legged, with fist-shaped hands placed naturally on his legs. On his right arm are two smaller Maitreyas. Hanging from his neck are Buddhist chains of beads. Many mysteries remain unsolved regarding this natural image. Considering its size and outlook resemble Leshan's Big Buddha, people wonder if this one could have been similarly carved by humans. Another mystery involves the carved "wheel of law" pattern on the back of the Buddha's right hand. It is also strange that there is no mention of this in

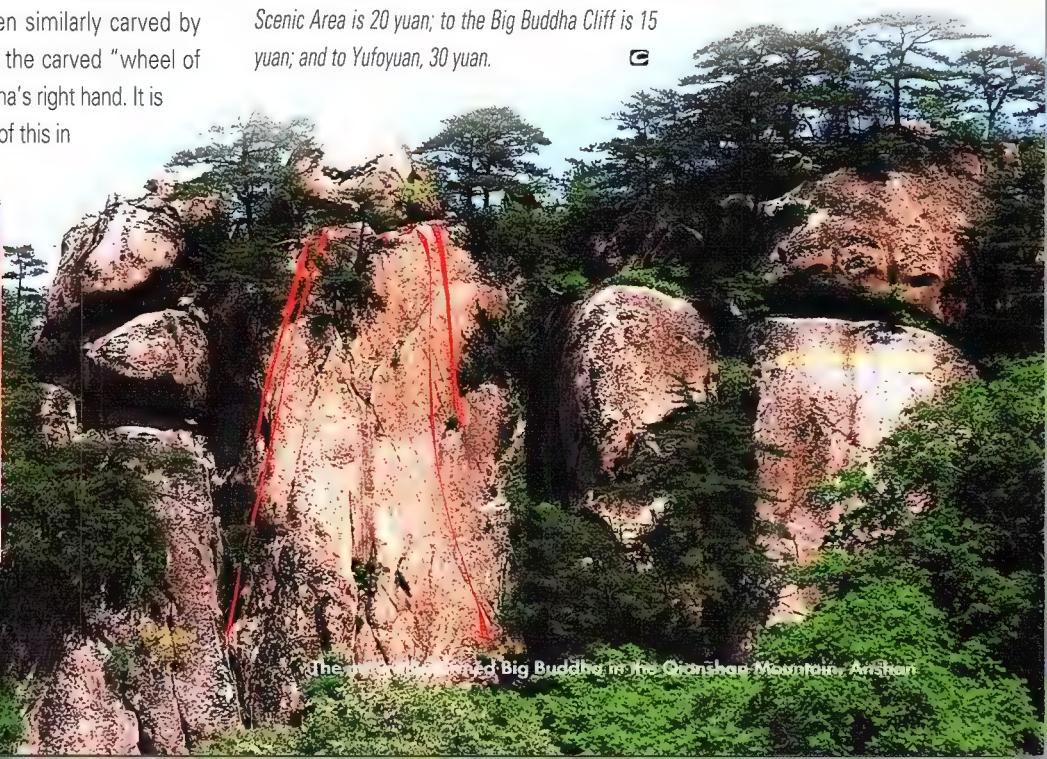
any historical records. During two incarnation ceremonies held in June and August 1993, rainbows and Buddhist light appeared above the Big Buddha. Annually, on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month (the birthday of Sakyamuni), a grand homage-paying ceremony is held.

The Jade Buddha in Yufoyuan is carved out of a huge single piece of jade mined in Xiuyan County. It exceeds five metres in height, the largest of its kind throughout the world.

*Tips:* Take a special-route bus at the Anshan Railway Station. A taxi costs around 20 yuan. Admission to the Qianshan Mountain Scenic Area is 20 yuan; to the Big Buddha Cliff is 15 yuan; and to Yufoyuan, 30 yuan.



The Jade Buddha in Yufoyuan



The naturally carved Big Buddha in the Qianshan Mountain, Anshan

SPECIAL TOURS

# JINSHAN HOT SPRING PARADISE

## RURAL STYLE HOT SPRING BATHING

Photos by Baoxiu

Article by Jiang Shan





I never expected, in Guangdong Province, to find such a lovely hot spring bathing resort. Jinshan Hot Spring Paradise is surrounded by wattled walls covered by calabash vines. Alongside the vines were wax gourd, pumpkin and morning glory. Flowers, grass and groves of bamboo covered the open ground.

As I walked nearer, I found to my surprise that, hidden among the woods and flowers are open-air bathing pools of different sizes and shapes. Some are made with stone, some with wood planks, while others are decorated with ceramic tiles. I hastily changed into my bathing trunks. Since men and women bathe together in open-view pools, everyone has to wear a bathing suit.

I quickly slipped into one pool that was neither cold nor hot. But after a while, I felt bored, so I moved to a



rectangular pool. The water there was so hot that it made me immediately head for another pool — the one with artificial waves and massage. But just as my feet touched the water, I jerked up like a marionette. It was scalding hot! The pool temperatures vary and customers have to get used to the hot water step by step. The pool I had just tried was the "hot-water pool" meant to be the last one. Actually, the hottest pool is the "Egg-Soaking Pool" with

water at 80°C. I saw several people standing by the pool, each soaking a net bag of chicken or quail eggs in the water — they were boiling their breakfast!

I moved to another pool, but soon I began to shiver in the cold water. After bathing in hot water for so long, it had felt comfortable to sit in the cold water, like having ice cream on a hot summer day. Switching from the cold back to the hot, you feel a special warmth surging through your body. The hot spring designer had carefully and thoughtfully alternated the hot pools with the cold ones to produce the comparative effect.

The designer also adopted an original approach to setting up the different pools. In the Wine Pool, three bottles of white liquor are added to the pool each day. It is not poured in one go but dripped drop by drop. A bath in such water can relieve fatigue, stimulate the blood circulation and help the muscles and joints relax. Bathing in the Perfume Pool, with a special perfume added, is particularly refreshing. In the Tea-Water Pool, the water comes out from a specially-made large tea pot which then is poured into a huge cup. People



1. "The Romance Pool", modelled on the fountain of terrestrial heat in Yangbajain in Tibet, "intoxicates" young people.
2. Just like a farmer's backyard in the countryside
3. Villas have been built at the Hot Spring Paradise.
4. The red brick path and simple log shelter vividly show the idyllic life.

sit at the cup's edge soaking their feet.

For something more stimulating, head for the Waterfall Pool. From up high, water crashes down on your shoulders and back with force, and you feel as if there is a masseur pounding your back with strong fists. As you require, courteous young waitresses offer you cups of fragrant tea to quench your thirst. After a long soak in the hot spring, you can either go to the swimming pool or the massage parlour to relax your muscles and joints.

There is a story about this hot spring from 600 years ago. When the people living by the Naji River suddenly developed incurable itchy skin and painful muscles they built a sacrificial altar to ask for help from heaven. On the seventh day of the seventh lunar month, following a massive storm, a woman found the river water was hot and seven fairies were playing in it. The fairies explained, "the Jade Emperor takes pity on you all, and for your piety he grants you



this celestial spring. The water can cure your disease." The villagers bathed in it and quickly their disease was gone. Thus the river became "Fairy River" and the riverside village "Hot Water Village".

At the village entrance, under a recently replanted banyan tree, is a huge yellow flagstone with an inscription written by the great artist Guan Shanyue — "Jinshan Hot Spring Paradise". On the lawn by the rock stand a few log cabins with fir bark roofs, which are stalls for barbecue or selling food at night. You can imagine what a pleasure it would be to sit here one evening eating fresh local food

and chatting with friends in the summer breeze.

The Jinquan Restaurant nearby was busy the day I went because it was a holiday. I especially enjoyed the dishes with local flavour: "Cabbage Soup with Preserved Egg" — bitter but fragrant; "Meiji Pig's

Knuckles" — not at all greasy; "Hot Spring Chicken" — tasty and sweet; and "Mountain Fish" — sweet and tender like malt. Though these dishes are not special delicacies, nor are they prepared by famous cooks, they are liked by all. The hot spring bathing also has effect on the appetite.

In the evening I lay in the wooden chair by the pool and chatted with an local old man. I learned about other nearby scenic spots. With Jinshan Hot Spring Paradise, people living in the south need not travel to famous places like Xi'an and Tibet to enjoy the pleasures of hot springs.

### Tips for the Traveller

The Jinshan Hot Spring Paradise, located in Naji Town, Enping City, Guangdong Province, covers an area of 40,000 square metres. It has eight luxury villas, 16 European-style houses, totalling 218 beds. All buildings are villa-style independent houses.

There are 28 Japanese-style bathing pools in various températures, physiotherapy pools, recreational pools and common pools, covering 10,000 square metres. Also included are night snack stalls, barbecue sites, fishing spots, archery range and parking lot.

◆ **Nearby scenic spots:** Jinjiang River Reservoir and Qixingkeng Primeval Forest are 10 kilometres away, with the Xianrensei Sea, Stone Village and other attractions lying close by. It is just a one-hour drive to the Yangjiang beach area.

◆ **Transportation:** Visitors from Guangzhou and Foshan can take the Foshan-Kaiping Expressway to Kaiping, then No. 325 Highway to Dahuai Town in Enping, and then turn north for seven kilometres to Jinshan Hot Spring Holiday Village. From there it is only 300 metres to the Hot Spring Paradise. Public buses run daily from Enping to Jinshan Hot Spring. Buses also run from Hong Kong directly to Enping daily.

◆ **Accommodation:** Jinyayuan (luxury villas, 8-19 beds per hall): 4,880 yuan per house. Biquan Mountain Village (top-class villas, 3-6 beds per hall): 1,682 yuan per house.

◆ **Charges:** Set ticket (including hot spring bath, accommodation and three meals): 248 yuan per person on ordinary days and 268 yuan on holidays. Ticket for hot spring bath only: 30 yuan.



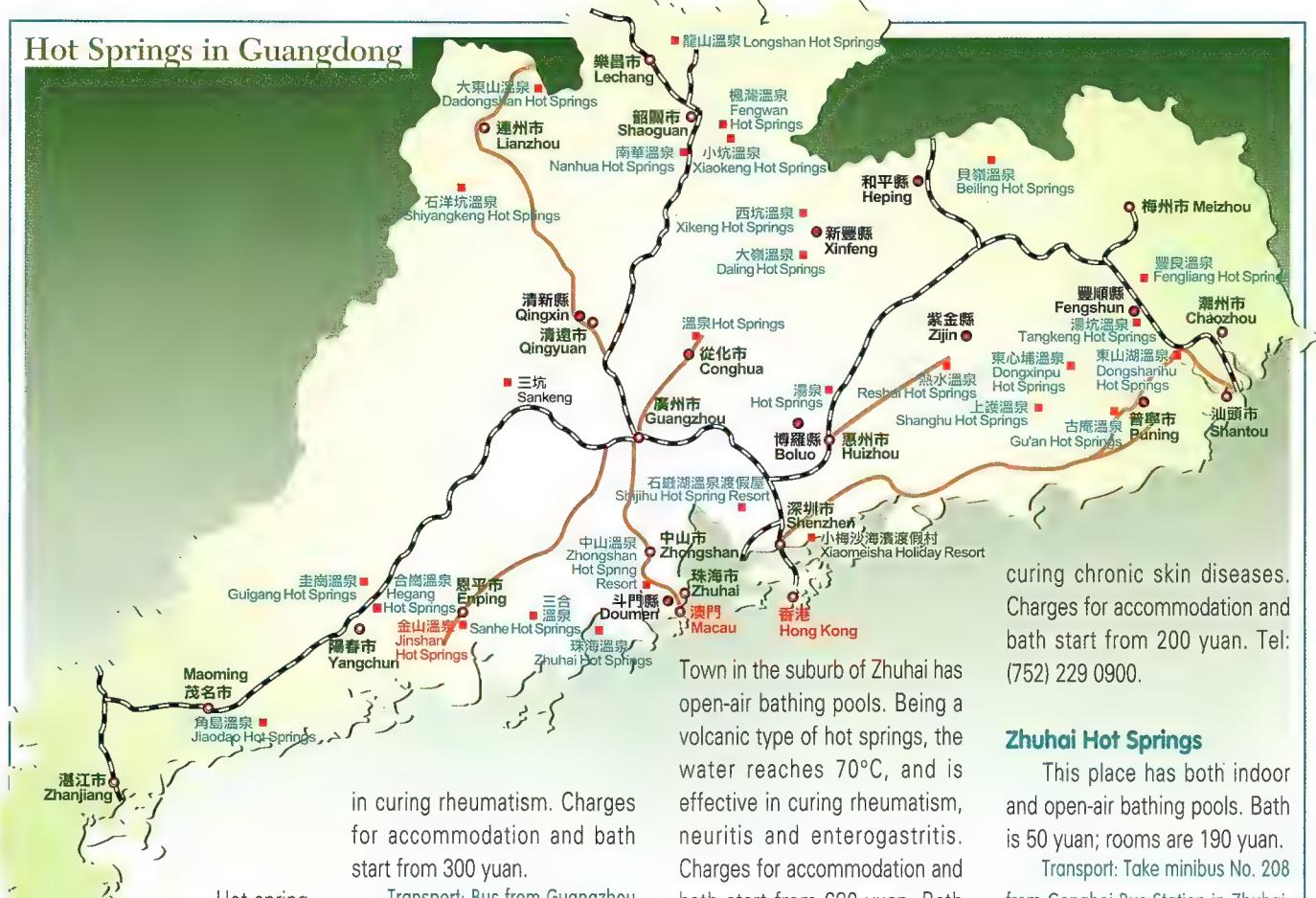
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1. The Jinshan Hot Spring Paradise is surrounded by fields, rivers and mountain villages.
2. It is as if hot rain is falling.
3. People seem to get "intoxicated" at the Wine Pool.
4. The Fragrant Wood Pool is well-liked.



## Hot Springs in Guangdong



Hot spring bathing in the mountain areas has become the trend for holidays recently. There are over 30 in Guangdong, new, old and renovated, that combine pleasure with nature. Here are a few distinctive ones:

### Jinshan Hot Spring Holiday Village

This holiday village by the Jinshan Hot Spring Paradise has open-air bathing pools, with a capacity for 1,000 people. Tel: (750) 728 1181.

### Qingxin Hot Springs

This spring is located in Sankeng Town, Qingxin County. The water in its open-air bathing pools is non-sulphurous but has strontium and metasilicate, and is potable. With temperatures reaching 60°C, it is very effective

in curing rheumatism. Charges for accommodation and bath start from 300 yuan.

Transport: Bus from Guangzhou to Qingyuan, then minibus to the hot spring. Tel: (763) 586 2622.

### Zhongshan Hot Springs

This hot spring hotel, in Sanxiang Town, Zhongshan, has an ancient style garden and palatial buildings. Its spring water contains minerals such as chlorine, sodium, calcium and magnesium. The water at the spring's mouth reaches 93°C, and is effective in curing hypertension, neuritis, arthritis, diabetes and enterogastritis. Charges for accommodation and bath start from 460 yuan.

Transport: Bus from Guangzhou or Zhuhai, or boat from Hong Kong to Zhuhai, then taxi or minibus to Sanxiang (about 22 kilometres). Tel: (760) 668 3888.

### Zhuhai Imperial Hot Springs

This hot spring in Doumen

Town in the suburb of Zhuhai has open-air bathing pools. Being a volcanic type of hot springs, the water reaches 70°C, and is effective in curing rheumatism, neuritis and enterogastritis. Charges for accommodation and bath start from 680 yuan. Bath only is 98 yuan.

Transport: Bus or taxi from Zhuhai; boat directly from Hong Kong to Doumen. Tel: (756) 579 7128.

### Huizhou Hot Springs

There are indoor bathing pools inside the Huizhou Hot Spring Scenic Area. Its 70°C water has over 30 elements including sodium carbonate and potassium, and is effective in

curing chronic skin diseases. Charges for accommodation and bath start from 200 yuan. Tel: (752) 229 0900.

### Zhuhai Hot Springs

This place has both indoor and open-air bathing pools. Bath is 50 yuan; rooms are 190 yuan.

Transport: Take minibus No. 208 from Gongbei Bus Station in Zhuhai. Tel: (756) 775 5623.

### Longshan Hot Springs in Kangle Holiday Village

There are mountain fountains with water at 52°C. It has four big bathing pools and a dozen smaller ones. Rooms start from 130 yuan.

Transport: Special minibuses go to the hot spring area from Lechang Railway Station. Tel: (751) 563 1028.





# Biking 5,000 Kilometres Through Western China

Photos by Zhang Xiaochuan Article by Luo Man

**Editors' Note:** Since a group of motorcyclists of the Oriental Electrical Machinery Plant in Deyang, Sichuan, set up their own Sichuan Motorcyclists Club, these people from the industrial city have made one expedition after another into the natural world. Their journey in the summer of 1997 to western China was their 20th expedition. A group of 11 people riding seven motorcycles travelled 13,760 kilometres in 45 days.

Upon her return, Luo Man recounted: "When we came back from our tour, I had trouble reverting back to the modern urban women's role. My heart longs to experience 'terrifying waves and stormy seas'. One day, I'll leave the noise and fuss of the city and be a wanderer in the wild mountains, in the sunshine, to live a simple and unrestrained life."

The following are excerpts from Luo Man's diary recording her unforgettable experience.

1. After being dragged out of a mud pool
2. Getting ready to cross the sand dunes
3. The Xuanbi Great Wall in Gansu      4. Fields in Aba, Sichuan
5. A pasture at the foot of the Kunlun Mountains

## Madoi, Qinghai 60 Kilometres of Potholes

To realise our dream of reaching the source of the Yellow River, the motorbike team left from Darlag in Qinghai and reached the cross-road, Huashixia. Ignoring the road north to Qinghai Lake, we headed west for 75 kilometres to Madoi — the county nearest the river's source. Here the altitude was 4,200 metres.

We lodged at the Madoi Army Service Station on the Yellow River bank. The next morning we set out for Ngoring Lake, one source of the Yellow River. The "craters" of this 60-kilometre bumpy road on the salt-water beach made us suffer a great deal. On the plateau the red sun was burning overhead, while a strong wind hurled sand into our faces. Seasonal floods had eroded the whole road into potholes so we could not do more than 20 kilometres an hour. There was not a trace of human habitation and only occasional gold-diggers' tractors jolted past.

Finally, the calm blue water of Ngoring Lake appeared before us on the beautiful plateau. Drawn to it, we completely forgot our fatigue and hardships, and had a picnic and took photos right on its banks.

## Caka, Qinghai Stimulating Driving

The entire white Caka Salt Lake came into view as we drove on. After we passed Caka, the conditions changed rapidly. The soil gradually mixed with sand, and some places have turned completely into desert. We sang songs to drive away drowsiness. When we went through rocky areas or an earthen pit, our motorbikes shot up into mid-air and then fell back down. It was both stimulating and thrilling. After 13 hours of safe driving, we finally reached Golmud. The whole distance was 600 kilometres, a new record for daily travel.



## Kunlun Mountain Pass, Qinghai

### Driving in a Daze

We embarked on the Qinghai-Tibet Highway, the highest road on earth. The magnificent mountain peaks on both sides resembled sculptures and traces of floods lay on the dry beds of seasonal rivers.

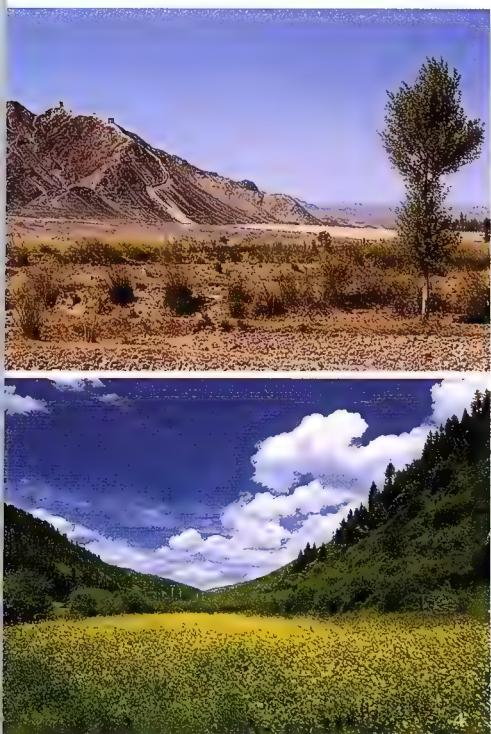
After crossing the Kunlun Mountain Pass at 4,760 metres, the oxygen level was obviously reduced. The sun shone brightly, then suddenly the wind howled and a violent storm came, with hailstones that rolled down our bodies like peas. The surface of the asphalt road had buckled like waves. We crossed the big bridge on the Qumar River, the northern source of the Yangtse River, and soon reached Wudaoliang. A local saying goes, "Wudaoliang makes you sick and Tanggula takes your life." So, after lunch, we hastily continued on to Yanziping. Unexpectedly, only 30 kilometres from Wudaoliang, one of our team suffered a blackout from altitude sickness, and fell from his motorbike into a roadside sand dune. Altitude sickness can be serious, causing drowsiness, slow reaction and even coma. This man was drowsy but had cycled on subconsciously. Though he was not seriously hurt, his bike was damaged and we hired a tractor from the

nearby road builders for 250 yuan to take it back to Wudaoliang. We decided that both the driver and his damaged motorbike should be sent back to Golmud, where he could recuperate and have the bike repaired while waiting for the team to return from Lhasa.

## Yamzho Yum Lake, Tibet

### Drowned in Beauty

Out of Xigazê we crossed the Yarlung Zangbo River at Qüxü and turned right on the road to Gangbala which wound up along the steep mountains. The narrow road, with sheer cliffs on one side and the deep valley below, made head-to-head meetings with trucks terrifying. We had to push our bikes through many sections of cave-ins. It took two hours to climb 20 kilometres to Gangbala Pass at 5,000 metres. From the pass, adorned with colourful religious banners, the blue Yamzho Yum Lake appeared before us. This lake, one of the three big sacred lakes in Tibet, covers 630 square kilometres and looks like a blue silk ribbon imbedded in the mountains. The scenery was so beautiful that we hated to leave.





## Yangbajain, Tibet

### World's Highest Heated Pool

After we passed through the beautiful vast grasslands in northern Tibet adorned with colourful scripture banners into Yangbajain, we did not want to go any further. With thoughts of a hot spring bath washing away the hardships and fatigue of our 4,000-kilometre trip, we lodged at the Yangbajain Geothermal Power Plant. We changed to swimsuits and jumped into the world's highest terrestrial-heated swimming pool at 4,150 metres.

## Tanggula Mountain, Tibet

### Mending a Puncture in a Storm

The rain that started at midnight continued as we left at daybreak from Amdo, 4,500 metres high, for Tanggula Mountain. We put on extra clothes but still felt cold. As we went higher, the rain gradually changed to a snowstorm. When we reached 5,000 metres at Tanggula Mountain, icy snowflakes lashed our hands and faces like knives.

Just at this juncture, one motorbike's front tyre got a puncture and we had to stop in the roadside mud to change it. As we pried out the wheel to remove and replace the flat tyre, our hands became numb, and due to thin air, we quickly began to pant and our lips turned purple. The five of us, three men and two women, took turns pumping up the tyre. It took us over half an hour before we could resume our driving. Our team leader remarked, "Who could guess that our first flat tyre in 20 days would be in a storm on Tanggula Mountain at 5,000 metres!"

After a few more stops, we drove with great difficulty on this bumpy road to Wudaoliang in a raging rainstorm, arriving at 10 p.m. The manager of a Sichuan restaurant ushered us in. We stayed overnight at Wudaoliang, a place known for good reason as the "Gate of Hell".

## Hami, Xinjiang

### Motorbike Out of Control

Hami was bathed in sunshine when we left, but shortly the sky turned grey and the wind picked up. Tianshan Mountains, covered in newly-fallen snow, came into view in the distant north. The mountain wind was chilly and gained force as we drove further. People walking in the force six or seven wind staggered; we feared our motorbikes might overturn at any moment. One bike lost its balance in a great gust of wind just after passing a truck and ran off the road. Fortunately, both the rider and the machine were all right. As we continued through this 200-kilometre-long wind region into Shanshan, the wind became worse, throwing sand and stones up into the air.

To avoid the heat of the day we started our climb across the Flaming Mountain at 9:30 p.m. Flaming Mountain is the one the Tang-dynasty monk Xuan Zang travelled over to India, as described in the classic novel *Journey to the West*. The road, covered with stones, was arduous travelling. Moreover, it was crowded with trucks since everybody tried to pass Flaming Mountain at night. Nevertheless, we managed to cross the mountain and enter the Turpan Basin.

## Xinhe, Xinjiang, Becoming a Terracotta Figure

Soon after we left Xinhe County where the streets were flanked by white poplars, we entered the boundless gobi desert. There was not a tree to be seen, only a few ground-level plants. At noon the red sun burning overhead sent waves of hot air rolling one after another. The asphalt road surface temperature was over 80°C. The rolling friction of our wheels was like striking a match on this road. Our heads were swollen and giddy in our helmets, and the waves of wind made our throats and feet feel like they were on fire.





Just as we were longing for an oasis an accident happened — a biker eager to overtake others, ran off the road. We could never have guessed that beneath the dry hard surface of the ground was a pool of mud. Only the bike's rear seat poked out of the mud. The man raised himself up, completely covered in mud and looking exactly like a terracotta figure. We easily pulled his passenger out, but even two bikes failed to pull the sunken bike out. So we got help from a truck driver from Sichuan. Knowing we were also from Sichuan convinced him to help pull the bike out. Though the nylon rope broke several times we finally succeeded. As there was no water to wash, the biker had to wait till the hot wind dried up and cracked the mud. Then he peeled off perfect pieces of "clay plates and bowls".

## Kashi, Xinjiang Rewards at the Bazaar

On this trip, Kashi (Kashgar) was the terminus of our 5,000-kilometre journey in western China. After entering Xinjiang through

Xingxing Gorge in the east, we had travelled about 2,000 kilometres and finally reached Kashi on the seventh day.

In Kashi, we visited its famous centuries-old market, the Uygur bazaar. Today it has become a grand gathering of Chinese and foreign merchants. Many shops and stalls stand around the renowned Id Kah Mosque. In the evening, the place was bustling with activity and different kinds of goods were dazzlingly displayed in the stalls. We bought many things typical to the Uygur ethnic group and the border region, such as scarves, caps, cloth, Yengisar knives, fruits and melons and earthenware for our return from a rewarding journey. ☕

1. Xigazê prevailed in a religious atmosphere
2. A highway on the Qinghai Plateau (by Stone)
3. At the Tanggula Pass
4. Bathed in the rain
5. Taking a break in the wilderness
6. In conditions like this, every step forward requires great efforts.
7. A group photo taken at Greater Qaidam lakeside



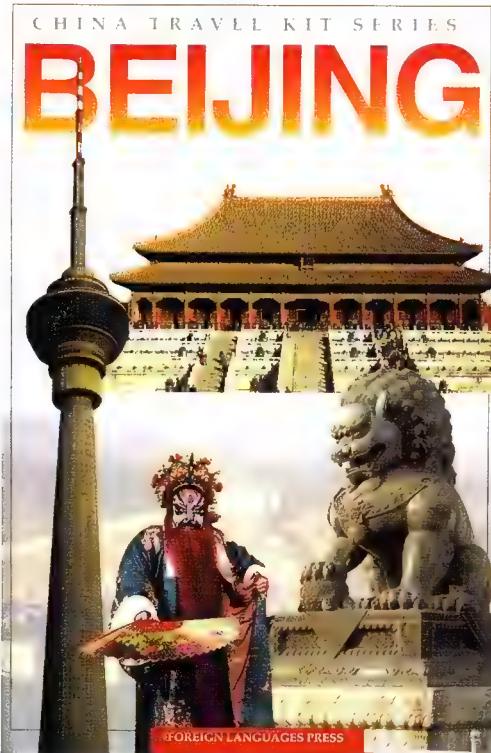
This guidebook, *Beijing*, is one of a series by the Foreign Languages Press on cities in China. There is an abundance of guidebooks about this ancient capital city, but this one has added some uncommon and useful features.

Beijing has an enormous number of sights. Besides the most commonly visited ones such as the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and the Summer Palace, Beijing, the habitat of Peking Man half a million years ago and the capital of many dynasties under various names, has a lot more to offer its visitors.

The book's listing of sights is quite organised and extensive, though some of them may not interest non-Chinese tourists or those without good historical background knowledge. Greater details of features of these many sights make them all the more interesting and are things you do not get in the common guidebook. For example, you learn that on the marble bridges over the stream leading into the Forbidden City, only the centre one, the Imperial Way, has carved dragons symbolising the emperor, while the other bridges have lotus flowers. The *huabiao*, the two carved ornamental columns unique to China that stand outside the Forbidden City, are explained as the predecessors of the wooden pillars on which people could carve their criticisms of officials in the early days of Chinese history.

Several practical advantages stand out to make this guidebook simple to follow. Colour-coded contents and page edges dividing topics such as history, the Forbidden City, imperial gardens and parks, temples, museums, eating guide, and so on make it easy to find what you want. To help you get to sights within the city, the book includes bus routes as well as opening hours and admission fees. There are very good colour pictures which make identifying the sight a simple task. Sections on transport, hotels, shopping, eating and even language are helpful.

*Beijing*'s biggest advantage is the great number of sidebar boxes that add some interesting information not commonly available. For example, there is the story of the way the Ming and Qing dynasties



## BEIJING, CHINA TRAVEL KIT SERIES

By Xu Mingqiang

Foreign Languages Press

First Edition, 1997, 291 pages

Price: 68 yuan (about US\$8.50)

would issue imperial edicts, the Western Zhou's downfall from lighting false warning fires on the Great Wall beacon towers and the reasoning behind the tapping of fingers on the table to say "thanks" when tea is served.

Unfortunately the book does have a drawback. It is obviously written by a non-native speaker and sometimes words or phrases are incorrect. The language is occasionally drawn-out so that you tend to skip over some sections. Another point is that words such as "probably" have been used too frequently, for instance, as in the phrase "probably being the largest of its kind". Either it is the largest or it isn't!

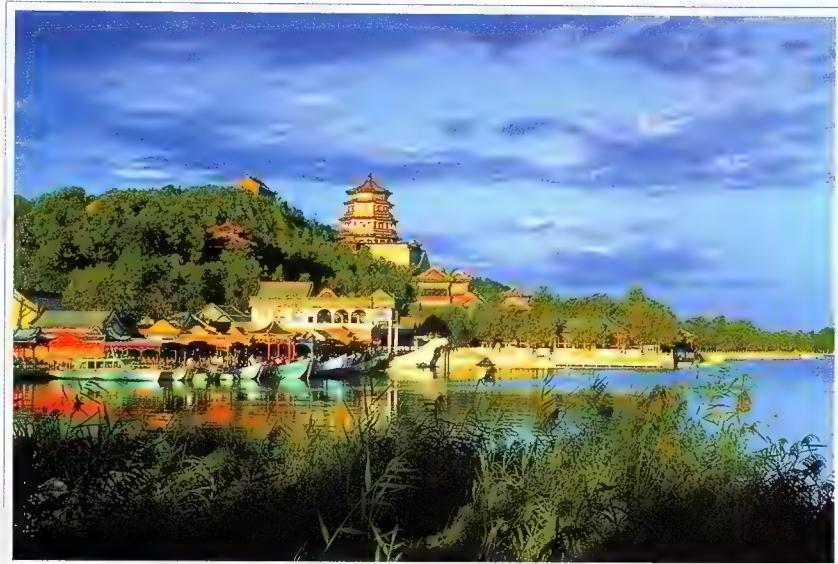
A problem found in most English guidebooks, for those who cannot read Chinese, is the variations in the translation of names of sights. For example, the eastern gate of the Palace Museum is called here the East Flowery Gate, and in other books the East Gate of Glory or simply the East Gate. It would be useful if the names could be standardised

to avoid confusion. Adding the Chinese characters for the various sights, as is done in this book, is one of the best solutions.

*Beijing* is overall a handy guide and for the price provides decent value.

Reviewed by Patricia Hutton





By YAO TIANXUN

## • World Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites in China

There are now a total of 582 sites all over the world which have been designated as UNESCO's world cultural and natural heritage. China has a share of 21 sites, including imperial palaces, ancient gardens, famous mountains and waters, as well as defence works and religious and cultural sites.

## • Chengde Mountain Resort

Chengde Mountain Resort covers an area of 564 hectares surrounded by a wall 10 kilometres long. It was the summer escape of the Qing emperors. The original idea for building the grand villa was to provide the emperors with a temporary dwelling place when they left the capital for the Mulan Hunting Ground. Chengde is the largest of eight villas built between Beijing and the hunting ground.

## • Jiuzhaigou

The breathtaking sea of colours at Jiuzhaigou is considered the finest of all the natural wonders in China. Even Dr. Lucas, the United Nations expert who verified the natural heritage designation, was shocked and said with a sigh, "There are no appropriate English words for some of the colours here." Jiuzhaigou is one of the three entirely natural sites of China on the world heritage list.

## • Mount Huangshan

Mount Huangshan was named a world heritage site in 1990. Giant pine trees, bizarre rocks, sea of clouds and hot springs are the four features on Mount Huangshan. The hardy, old pines make a remarkably perfect combination with the strange rocks and piercing peaks. All together they compose a poetic masterpiece of Mother Nature.

## • The Great Wall

Selected a world heritage in 1987, the greatest defence work in ancient China and one of the world's seven wonders, the Great Wall was China's first site placed on the UNESCO list. The building of defensive walls began in the Spring and Autumn Period almost 2,600 years ago. The existing Ming-dynasty Great Wall runs from Jiayuguan in the west to Shanhaiguan in the east, extending roughly 6,000 kilometres.

## • Temple of Heaven

Covering an area of 273 hectares, the Temple of Heaven is the world's largest altar to the God of Heaven. It is where emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties held ceremonies offering sacrifices to Heaven and prayed for good harvests. Its main structures include the Hall of Prayers for Good Harvests, the Temple of the Gods, Imperial Vault of Heaven and Circular Mound Altar. The Echo Wall in the temple is also a major tourist attraction.

## • Mount Emei and Leshan Mountain

One of the four Buddhist Mountains in China, Mount Emei wins visitors' admiration with its picturesque natural scenery and numerous Buddhist temples. It has always attracted pilgrims from home and abroad. The world's largest sitting statue in the image of Buddha, the Leshan Buddha statue is the highlight of the scenic spot. This 1,200-year-old statue acts as an important evidence of the former glory of the Tang Dynasty's Buddhist culture.

# Hotels in Beijing

Name	Star	Address	Postcode	Tel	Fax
The Palace Hotel, Beijing	*****	8 Goldfish Lane, Wangfujing	100006	(10) 65128899	(10) 65129050
Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing	*****	29 Zizhuyuan Rd., Haidian District	100081	(10) 68412211	(10) 68418002
China World Hotel	*****	1 Jianguomenwai St.	100004	(10) 65052266	(10) 65053167
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Beijing	*****	48 Wangfujing St.	100006	(10) 65133388	(10) 65132513
Continental Grand Hotel, Beijing	****	8 Beichen St. E., Beisihuan Rd.	100101	(10) 64915588	(10) 64910106
Fragrant Hills Hotel	****	Fragrant Hills Park, Haidian District	100093	(10) 62591166	(10) 62591762
Gloria Plaza Hotel, Beijing	****	2 Jianguomen St. S.	100022	(10) 65158855	(10) 65158533
Holiday Inn Lido, Beijing	****	Jiangtai Rd., Airport Rd.	100004	(10) 64376688	(10) 64376237
Jianguo Hotel Beijing	****	5 Jianguomenwai St., Chaoyang District	100020	(10) 65002233	(10) 65002871
Friendship Hotel, Beijing	***	3 Baishiqiao Rd., Haidian District	100837	(10) 68498888	(10) 68498866
Media Hotel, Beijing	***	11B Fuxing Rd.	100859	(10) 68514422	(10) 68516288
Beijing Rainbow Hotel	***	11 Xijing Rd., Xuanwu District	100073	(10) 63012266	(10) 63011366
Minzu Hotel, Beijing	***	51 Fuxingmennei St.	100046	(10) 66014466	(10) 66014849
Yanxiang Hotel, Beijing	***	2A Jiangtai Rd., Dongzhimenwai	100016	(10) 64376666	(10) 64376231
Olympic Hotel	***	52 Baishiqiao Rd., Haidian District	100081	(10) 62176688	(10) 62174259
Beijing Exhibition Centre Hotel	***	135 Xizhimenwai St.	100044	(10) 68316633	(10) 68347450
Chains City Hotel, Beijing	***	4 Workers' Stadium Rd. E.	100027	(10) 65007799	(10) 65007668
Taiwan Hotel, Beijing	***	5 Goldfish Lane, Wangfujing	100006	(10) 65136688	(10) 65136896
Poly Plaza	***	14 Dongzhimen St. S., Dongcheng District	100027	(10) 65001188	(10) 65010268
Tiantan Hotel	***	1 Tiyuguan Rd., Chongwen District	100061	(10) 67112277	(10) 67116833
Novotel Beijing	***	88 Dengshikou, Dongcheng District	100006	(10) 65138822	(10) 65139088
Yanjing Hotel	***	19 Fuxingmenwai St., Xicheng District	100046	(10) 68536688	(10) 68526200
Ritan Hotel	**	1 Ritan Rd., Chaoyang District	100020	(10) 65125588	(10) 65128671
Haoyuan Hotel Beijing	**	9A Tiantan St. E., Chongwen District	100061	(10) 67014499	(10) 65112719
Yuxiang Hotel	**	East of the Airport Lounge, Nanyuan Airport	100076	(10) 67092128	
Beijing Hademen Hotel	**	2A Chongwenmenwai St.	100062	(10) 67112244	(10) 67116865
Jingyan Hotel Beijing	**	29 Shijingshan Rd.	100043	(10) 68876261	(10) 68878990
Beijing Yanling Hotel	**	4 Huashiling, Fengtai District	100072	(10) 63886312	(10) 63886876

# Flights to and from Beijing

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Chongqing — Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:30	10:35	SZ4137
	2	10:00	12:00	SZ4645
	5 7	11:00	13:10	X2 162
	6	12:20	14:20	SZ4645
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:45	14:50	SZ4141
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:00	15:00	3U 131
	3 4 6 7	15:30	17:30	SZ4135
	2 4 5	18:30	20:50	CA1410
Beijing — Chongqing	5 7	08:10	10:20	X2 161
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:40	14:10	SZ4138
	2 4 5	15:25	17:55	CA1409
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:40	18:00	3U 132
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:00	18:20	SZ4142
	2	17:30	19:40	SZ4646
	3 4 6 7	18:10	20:30	SZ4136
	6	19:30	21:40	SZ4646
Dunhuang — Beijing	1 3 4 5 7	10:00	14:40	WH2155
	2 6	11:15	15:10	WH2157
Beijing — Dunhuang	1 3 4 5 7	15:20	20:10	WH2156
	2 6	15:50	20:10	WH2158
Hangzhou — Beijing	3 6	08:20	10:05	F65937
	1 4	08:50	10:40	F65933
	2 5	09:15	11:10	MU5153
	3 7	10:40	12:35	WH2151
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:55	12:50	CA1510
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:55	14:50	MU5145
	1 5	13:40	15:30	FM 151
	2 4 6	16:30	21:40	CA1536
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:10	19:10	F65939
Beijing — Hangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:20	10:15	CA1509
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:05	11:55	MU5146
	1 5	11:05	12:55	FM 152
	2 5	12:00	14:00	MU5154
	3 7	13:30	15:20	WH2152
	2 4 6	14:10	16:00	CA1535
	3 6	15:00	16:35	F65938
	1 4	15:50	17:35	F65934
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:00	21:45	F65940
Hong Kong — Beijing	4 5 7	02:00	05:00	CA1002
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:30	12:20	CA 108
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:20	13:25	CZ 309
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:20	15:10	CA 102
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:15	17:20	CA 112
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:15	20:10	CA 110
Beijing — Hong Kong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:50	10:50	CA 101
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:20	12:55	CA 111
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:00	15:55	CA 109
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:25	17:35	CZ 310
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:50	19:40	CA 107
	3 4 6	20:30	23:30	CA1001
Nanchang — Beijing	6	07:50	10:00	MU5149
	2 3 4 7	07:50	10:00	MU5149
	2 4 6	10:40	12:30	4G 831
	4	13:40	15:40	X2 194
	7	14:40	16:40	X2 194
	3 5	14:55	17:10	CZ8717
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:55	21:00	CA1512

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Beijing — Nanchang	2 3 4 7	10:45	12:50	MU5150
	6	10:50	12:50	MU5150
	4	10:50	13:00	X2 193
	7	12:00	14:00	X2 193
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:00	18:25	CA1511
	2 4 6	16:30	18:45	4G 832
	3 5	17:50	19:55	CZ8718
Shenyang — Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:00	09:20	CJ6101
	3 5 7	08:40	09:50	CJ6461
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:55	14:30	CJ6113
	3 6	13:10	14:10	F65938
	1 5 7	14:30	16:00	CJ6105
	2 3 4 6	14:30	16:10	CJ6105
	2 4 6	14:35	15:35	XO9608
	2 5	15:35	17:05	CJ6103
	2 4 6	15:40	17:10	CJ6714
	1 3 5	15:40	17:10	CJ6712
	7	15:40	17:10	CJ6712
	1 3 4 6 7	17:20	18:30	CJ6107
	1	19:35	20:35	X2 122
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	19:45	20:45	CA1626
	2 4 6	20:00	21:00	X2 122
Beijing — Shenyang	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:50	11:45	CJ6114
	3 6	11:05	12:10	F65937
	2 4 6	12:15	13:30	XO9607
	1 3 5	13:45	15:00	CJ6711
	7	13:45	15:00	CJ6711
	4	13:45	15:00	CJ6713
	2 6	13:50	15:00	CJ6713
	1 2 4 5 7	15:20	16:20	CJ6108
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:45	17:50	CJ6106
	2 5	17:50	18:50	CJ6104
Urūmqi — Beijing	1	17:55	18:55	X2 121
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:10	19:15	CA1625
	2 4 6	18:20	19:20	X2 121
	3 5 7	20:00	21:00	CJ6462
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:10	21:10	CJ6102
Beijing — Urūmqi	2 4 6	08:05	11:15	XO9607
	3 5 7	08:15	11:45	XO9311
	2	08:55	12:15	XO9601
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:05	13:30	XO9101
	4 7	11:25	15:05	CZ 330
	1 4 5 6 7	14:55	18:25	XO9103

\* For reference only.

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- F6 = CNAC-Zhejiang Airlines
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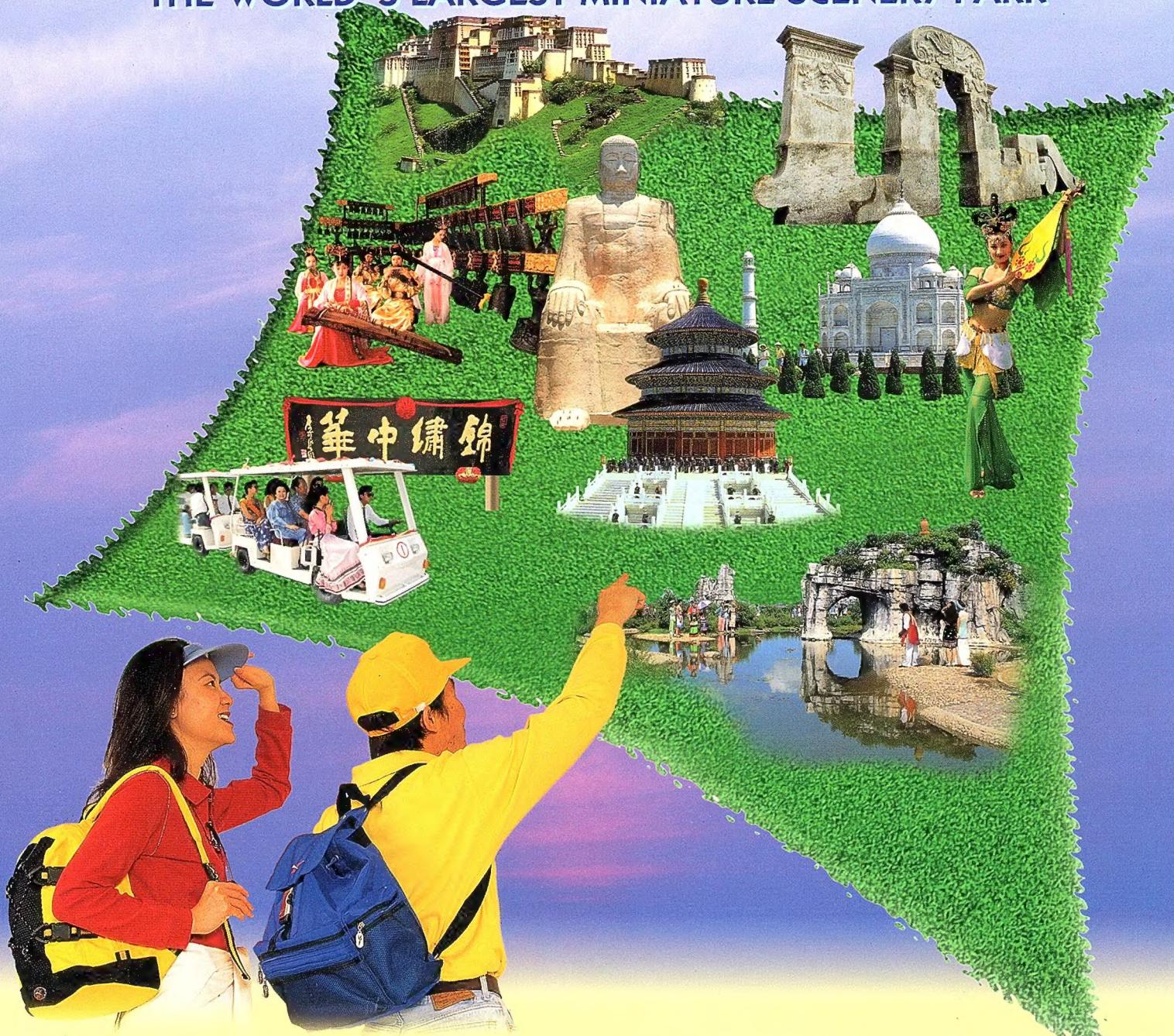


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